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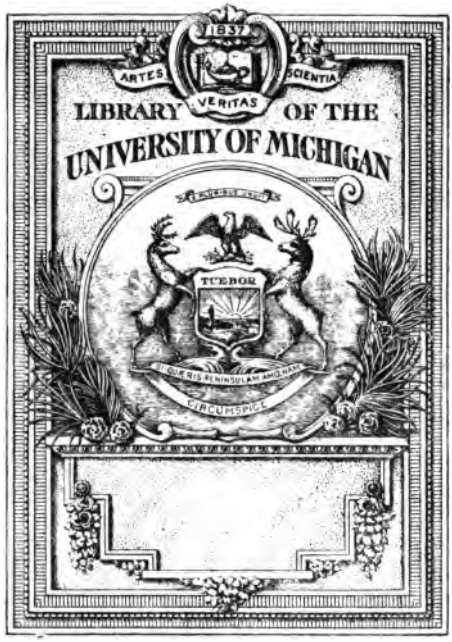
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" ———— I with no other herald,
" No other speaker of my *living actions*,
To keep mine honour from corruption,
" But such an honeſt chronicler." ————

HENR. VIII. Act 4, Sc. 2.

" ——— Hic nigræ ſuccus loliginis; hæc eſt
" Æruginis mera; quod vitium procul abſore chartis,
" Atque animo prius, ut ſi quid promittere de me
" Possum aliud, vere promitto."

HORACE, Sat. i. 4. 100.

TO BE CONTINUED ANNUALLY.

Vol 2

DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR J. MOORE, No. 45, COLLEGE-GREEN.

1799.

Another or third volume of this work will be publiſhed in October, 1800; *and all perſons, inclined to communicate complete memoirs or authentic materials relative to any diſtinguiſhed perſon, are requeſted to addreſs the ſame, under their real ſignature, to Mr.* PHILLIPS, *No.* 71, *St. Paul's Church-Yard, London, or* J. MOORE, *No.* 45, *College-green, Dublin, previouſly to the firſt of July next.*

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE favorable reception with which the former volume of this work was honoured, the rapid ſale of two very large editions in Great Britain, and the avidity with which it was tranſlated into foreign languages and re-publiſhed in Ireland and America, render it unneceſſary for the editor to expatiate on the nature and utility of the deſign.

In the preface to that volume, he deſcribed at large the peculiar advantages poſſeſſed by contemporary over poſthumous biography; and he conceives that the ſpirit of candour and moderation, in which the ſeveral memoirs were written, tended to reſcue this ſpecies of writing from much of the obloquy under which it had previouſly laboured.

The ſame ſpirit has directed the formation of the preſent volume; and the editor hopes it will be found that the various WRITERS of the following pages have fully availed themſelves of the advantages reſulting from living obſervation, uninfluenced by the prejudices which too frequently diſfigure the opinions of contemporaries.

The memoirs in the preſent, as in the former, have been communicated by the perſons whoſe initials or aſſumed ſignatures are affixed to them. Theſe perſons in general have an immediate knowledge of the individuals reſpecting whom they write, and are able to beſtow on their reſpective articles a due degree of authenticity and copiouſneſs. It reſults, however, as a conſequence of this neceſſary arrangement, that the work contains much variation of ſtyle, and conſiderable inequality of literary merit. Thus, while *ſome* articles only recommend themſelves as containing a ſimple ſtatement of facts, *others*, communicated by gentlemen of diſtinguiſhed literary attainments, abound in moral and critical obſervations, and combine, with UNQUESTIONABLE AUTHENTICITY, the graces of elegant compoſition.

It is preſumed that no ſentiment has place in this volume which can give a moment's pain to any of the perſonages whoſe memoirs are inſerted. Corrections of any ſuch paſſages, ſhould they unfortunately exiſt, and valuable and authentic communications or additions to any of the articles, will henceforward be affixed to each ſubſequent volume in the form of an Appendix.

London, October, 1799.

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PUBLIC CHARACTERS

OF 1799.

JERVIS, EARL ST. VINCENT.

——— VINCENTI CORONA.

UPON that column, which a grateful country meditates to erect in commemoration of naval victories, glorious beyond example and important beyond calculation, the chiſſel of the artiſt ſhall not inſcribe a name more deſervedly eſteemed and honoured than that of Jervis, nor ſhall the pen of the hiſtorian record a victory more glorious than that whence this brave commander derives his title.

While ſculpture and hiſtory thus commemorate the achievement, curioſity, laudably inquiſitive, inquires the name and character of the individual who performed it; and the writer of the biographic ſketch, occaſionally quitting the anecdote which gratifies curioſity, riſes into the conſequence of the hiſtorian, and records a brilliant event in the annals of his country.

Earl St. Vincent, although ſixty-five years of age, fifty-five of which have been ſpent in the ſervice, ſtill retains

"A ſparkling eye beneath a veteran brow."

His Lordſhip poſſeſſes all the fire and energy of youth tempered with all the maturer experience and deliberative wiſdom

of age. He is deſcended from an ancient and reſpectable family in Stafford-ſhire, and is the ſecond and youngeſt ſon of Swynfen Jervis, Eſq. barriſter-at-law, counſel to the Admiralty, and auditor of Greenwich-Hoſpital; and his mother was the ſiſter of Sir Thomas Parker, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

At the early period of ten years of age, his Lordſhip quitted Burton Grammar-School,* where he imbibed the rudiments of his education, and entered into the navy, a ſervice in which he was probably induced to embark from his father's ſituation in the Admiralty.

The foundation of thoſe principles of naval diſcipline and ſuperior ſeamanſhip, which his Lordſhip has upon all occaſions ſo conſpicuouſly and effectually diſplayed, was firſt laid under that diſtinguiſhed officer Lord Hawke, to whoſe principles, although that great commander is now no more, the Britiſh navy is in no inconſiderable degree indebted for the fame it has acquired.

The probationary interval of ſervitude, paſſed in the capacity of midſhipman until riſing to the rank of lieutenant, affords little ſcope for general obſervation or public notice; it is enough, that, in this capacity, the more private but not leſs meritorious duties are performed under the eye and approbation of the ſuperior officers; but it is allowed by all who knew his Lordſhip in that ſubordinate capacity, that he was here diſtinguiſhed for that prompt obedience to command which conſtitutes, in the opinion of his Lordſhip, the life and ſoul of naval diſcipline.

Soon after the peace, his Lordſhip was ſent to France to acquire thoſe accompliſhments which are requiſite in an extenſive intercourſe with the world, and perfect himſelf in the French language, an almoſt-indiſpenſable requiſite in the education of a naval officer.

The limits aſſigned to this ſketch do not allow us to trace his Lordſhip through the reſpective gradations of lieutenant,

* Mr. Meux, the brewer, was one of his Lordſhip's cotemporaries.

or

or maſter and commander, thoſe more prominent points only of general obſervation and hiſtorical record muſt conſequently form this biographic portrait, accompanied by ſuch information and anecdote as may gratify reaſonable curioſity, delineated with that fidelity, and, at the ſame time, conſiſtent with that delicacy, which ought always to be obſerved in ſketching the portrait of a *living* character.

The dates of his Lordſhip's commiſſion as a lieutenant and maſter and commander, together with the ſervices he performed, are here not touched upon, becauſe the ſplendor of his later achievements is ſo conſpicuous, as to render theſe details, (neceſſary, perhaps, in other lives,) in his character, more eaſily to be diſpenſed with. This, therefore, we ſhall paſs over, with the obſervation, that, in the year 1760, his Lordſhip was promoted to the rank of poſt-captain, and ſerved ſome time upon the Weſt-India ſtation.

In the memorable engagement between the French and Britiſh fleets, on the 27th and 28th of July, 1778, his Lordſhip commanded the Foudroyant, which was the next ſhip to the Victory, and as cloſely engaged and as much diſabled as any ſhip in the fleet. Indeed it is impoſſible to convey a better idea of his Lordſhip's character and opinion, relative to that engagement, than by the following extracts from the clear, conſiſtent, and pointed, teſtimony which he gave upon the court-martial called upon Admiral Keppel.

Upon the following queſtion being put by the Admiral,

Q. Your ſtation being neareſt me during the purſuit of the enemy and after the action, which gave you an opportunity of obſerving my conduct, and of ſeeing objects nearly in the ſame point of view with myſelf, I deſire you will ſtate to the court any inſtance, if you ſaw or knew of any ſuch, in which I negligently performed my duty on the 27th or 28th of July?

A. With great reſpect to you, ſir, and deference to the court, I hope I ſhall be indulged with having that queſtion put by the court.

The Judge-Advocate, *mutatis mutandis*, then put the queſtion.

A. I feel myſelf bound to anſwer that queſtion. I believe it to be conſonant to the general practice of ſea courts-martial.—I cannot boaſt of a long acquaintance with Admiral Keppel; I never had the honour of ſerving under him before; but I am happy in this opportunity to declare to this court, and to the whole world, that, during the whole time that the Engliſh fleet was in ſight of the French fleet, he diſplayed *the greateſt naval ſkill and ability and the boldeſt enterpriſe upon the 27th of July; which, with the promptitude of Sir Robert Harland, will be ſubjects of my admiration and imitation as long as I live.*

From the evidence given upon this trial it appears, that the Foudroyant, which had got into her ſtation about three, and never left it till four the next morning, was very cloſely engaged, and in a moſt diſabled ſtate. Her main-maſt had received a ſhot very near through the head and lodged in the cheek, which paſſed through the heart of the maſt; and ſeveral other ſhot in different places; her fore-maſt had alſo received ſeveral ſhot; a large excavation had been made in her bowſprit near the centre; the fore-topmaſt was ſo diſabled, that it was obliged to be reefed, and the mizen was totally diſabled; every rope of her running-rigging cut, and her ſhrouds demoliſhed; no braces or bowlines left, and ſcarcely any hallyards: fore-ſtay, ſpring-ſtay, and topſail-ties, and the foot-rope of the fore-topſail, ſhot away: her ſails alſo were very much ſhattered.

In this moſt diſabled ſtate, the Foudroyant was not in a condition to chaſe, but kept her ſtation next the Victory, as far to windward as poſſible. "*I was covetous of wind,*" ſaid this brave officer, "*becauſe, diſabled as I then was, I conceived the advantage of the wind could only carry me again into action.*"

Being aſked ſome queſtions relative to the poſition of the vice-admiral and his diviſion, his Lordſhip pointedly replied, tha

that "he was not a *competent judge of that part of the fleet, he was very attentive to the admiral.*"

Nor was the *ſpecial pleading*, attempted to be introduced relative to any variance between his evidence and the log-book, capable of affecting him. His Lordſhip declared he always gave his teſtimony from his own obſervation. His queſtions were not ſhaped to anſwers; nor would he, in any caſe, be compelled to ſwear to what was ſet down in the log-book, but only from what he ſaw or knew.

Indeed, throughout the whole of this examination, his Lordſhip's preſence of mind, readineſs and point in anſwer, and unſhaken firmneſs, has demonſtrated, that his intellectual faculties, are by no means inferior to his ſucceſsful intrepidity in the heat of battle.

We come now to detail the particulars, to uſe the words of Admiral Barrington, then commander-in-chief, of one of the moſt brilliant actions which had occurred during the American war, namely, the capture of *the Pégaſe*; an action which decidedly proved that ſpecies of happy valour, which conſtitutes the leading feature of his Lordſhip's profeſſional character, in the month of April, 1782, Admiral Barrington ſailed for the Bay of Biſcay with twelve ſail of the line; and, when a ſhort diſtance off Uſhant, Captain M'Bride, commanding the *Artois*, which was very far a-head, made the ſignal for diſcovering an enemy's fleet. In conſequence of which the Admiral hove out the ſignal for a general chaſe, and about three o'clock the enemy became viſible; but the Admiral's ſhip, the *Britannia*, was left very far a-ſtern by many of the prime-ſailing ſhips, among ſtwhich, the Foudroyant, Captain Jervis, ſo far outſtripped the reſt, that, when night came on, with hazy weather, he ſoon loſt them entirely, but ſtill kept a full view of the enemy, whom he purſued with unremitting vigour. The chaſed fleet conſiſted of eighteen ſail, laden with proviſion and ammunition, and containing a conſiderable number of troops for the ſupply of the French fleet and forces in the Eaſt Indies, being particularly

to

to ſupply the loſs of that convoy which had been taken by Admiral Kempenfelt in the preceding winter: they had ſailed from Breſt only the day before, and were under the protection of the *Protecteur* and *Pégaſe* of 74 guns each, *l'Actionnaire* of 64 guns, armed en flute, and a frigate. The Foudroyant gained ſo faſt upon the chace, that it was evident they could not eſcape without an engagement; the convoy was therefore diſperſed by ſignal; and the two French ſeventy-fours having conſulted together, it was determined, that, as the *Protecteur* had a large quantity of money on-board, ſhe ſhould make the beſt of her way; and that, if fighting was inevitable, the *Pégaſe* ſhould abide the conſequence. A little before one A. M. the *Foudroyant* came up, and was cloſely engaged with the *Pégaſe*, commanded by the Chevalier de Sillans. This action was extremely fierce whilſt it laſted; but within leſs than an hour from its commencement, his Lordſhip laid the French ſhip aboard on the larboard quarter, and the *Pegaſe* was compelled to ſtrike. Nothing could have afforded a more ſtriking inſtance of the decided ſuperiority of ſeamanſhip and diſcipline on the one ſide, and of the great effects which theſe qualifications produced on the other, than the circumſtances of this gallant action. On board the *Pégaſe*, 80 were killed and wounded; the hull, maſts, and yards, of the French ſhip were materially injured; and the damage ſhe ſuſtained was beyond any thing that could have been ſuppoſed, conſidering the ſhort time ſhe was engaged; while the *Foudroyant* ſuſtained but little injury; not a man was killed, none mortally, and his Lordſhip the worſt wounded.* At this time, the ſea was ſo rough, that it was with great difficulty that his Lordſhip, with the loſs of two boats, could put an officer and eighty men on board the prize. Soon after this was effected, the *Foudroyant* and *Pégaſe* loſt ſight of each other; but the *Queen*, fortunately

* His Lordſhip was wounded by a ſplinter, which ſtruck him on the temple, the effects of which have never been removed, as his eyes have ever ſince been affected. The engagement between the Foudroyant and the Pégaſe have been admirably depicted by Serres, who has devoted two pictures to the ſubject, which are now in the poſſeſſion of the Marquis of Lanſdown.

coming

coming up, took poſſeſſion of her. In conſequence of this gallant action, Captain Jervis was honoured with the inſignia of Knight of the Bath; and, about this period, was married to his firſt couſin, Miſs Parker, daughter of Sir Thomas Parker.

Previous to the commencement of the preſent war, his Lordſhip, who, in the year 1787, had been promoted to the rank of rear-admiral of the blue, and in the year 1790 to that of rear-admiral of the white, acted and voted with the Oppoſition; but, when the war had actually commenced, he conſidered himſelf as bound in honour to make a tender of his ſervices; which, highly creditable to the judgement of adminiſtration, was immediately accepted, and he was appointed to command the ſquadron, deſtined to co-operate with Sir Charles Grey in the reduction of the French Weſt-India iſlands.* In this toilſome ſervice, with the moſt formidable difficulties to encounter, the ſpirit and perſeverance of theſe brave commanders ſhone pre-eminently conſpicuous; and the London Gazette Extraordinary, in the month of April, 1794, announced the important intelligence, that, on the 16th of March preceding, the whole iſland of Martinique had been captured from the French, excepting the forts *Bourbon* and *Royal*, which were then cloſely beſieged; and, on the 26th of the ſame month, diſpatches from the commander-in-chief were received, containing intelligence of the complete conqueſt of the iſland of *Martinique* by the ſurrender of the fort *Bourbon:* five ſtand of colours laid down by the garriſon, together with two colours of *Fort Bourbon*, were ſent and preſented to his Majeſty. This was a battle on both ſides hardly fought; and Sir Charles Grey thus handſomely bears teſtimony to the gallantry of his opponents: "The gallant defence," ſaid Sir Charles, "made by General *Rochambeau* and his garriſon, was ſtrongly manifeſted on entering Fort Bourbon, as there was ſcarce an inch of ground untouched

* About ten thouſand men, originally deſtined for this ſervice, were draſted off, and employed in an expedition to the coaſt of France.

by

by our ſhot and ſhells; and it is but juſtice to ſay, that it did them the higheſt honour."

The remainder of the French Weſt-India iſlands ſoon after followed the example of *Martinique*; but, in conſequence of the ſickneſs of the troops, and for want of ſufficient reinforcement, theſe conqueſts could not be retained.

Earl St. Vincent returned home from this expedition with his health conſiderably injured, and very much emaciated, from the effects of the yellow fever; but, though his body was viſibly impaired, his ſtrong and ardent mind could not long brook inaction; and, after the ſhort interval of four months' repoſe, he was diſpatched to ſucceed Admiral Hotham in command of the Mediterranean ſquadron, where he blocked up the Spaniſh fleet and bombarded Cadiz; to which, according to the accounts of the Paris papers, whoſe authority upon this occaſion need not be ſuſpected, he did conſiderable damage. Indeed, the ſervices he had performed upon this ſtation, in blocking up the Spaniſh fleet and protecting the coaſts of Italy, in addition to his former meritorious achievements, had ſo recommended him to his Majeſty, that it was in comtemplation to raiſe him to the dignity of the peerage, and a patent was actually ordered to be prepared for that purpoſe, when the news of the glorious defeat of the Spaniſh fleet was firſt announced.

Before we enter upon the detail of this memorable victory, in juſtice to the character of his Lordſhip, we are bound to make ſome brief remarks upon the ſituation of the country, which are neceſſary to appreciate more juſtly the value of ſuch diſtinguiſhed ſervices.

During the year 1797, the war between Great Britain and France was almoſt excluſively confined to naval operations, in which the ſkill and activity of Britiſh ſeamen were eminently conſpicuous, and a ſeries of ſplendid victories had animated their ſpirit to a moſt uncommon height:—ſtill it muſt be remarked, that the enemies of Great Britain had alſo conſiderably increaſed. The Spaniards, negligent of their better intereſts,

tereſts, too ſubſervient to the fatal influence of the Great Nation! had agreed to co-operate in its deſolating principles; and the navy of Spain and Holland was to have joined that of France.

About this period, the conſpiracy, which had been long forming in Ireland, began to wear the more open character of bold and avowed rebellion. The conſpirators relying upon the protection of France, which could only be afforded by ſo formidable a concentration of naval force as would have been produced by the junction of the three navies, and which ſeemed difficult at that period to prevent, began to be more bold and open in their conduct. A general gloom pervaded the country; and never was there a period which required a greater effort to revive the drooping ſpirits of his countrymen, than the period of this enterpriſing victory.

The country was, at this time, on all ſides, threatened with invaſion; the very bulwarks of the nation tottered; and the Iriſh conſpiracy had infected the Britiſh fleet, which was taken poſſeſſion of by the mutineers. To blockade the fleets of the enemy in their own ports and to prevent a junction was the only mode of averting the impending blow. —To have engaged a fleet ſo numerous as the combined fleets, would have been moſt hazardous; and with ſuch an inferior ſquadron to prevent the junction, ſeemed to be impoſſible. Notwithſtanding theſe obſtacles, the mighty mind of Sir John Jervis, upon viewing the fleet of the enemy, inſtantly conceived that bold project, which terminated ſo glorioufly for himſelf, and ſo honourably for his country.

Conſcious of their ſuperiority of number, the Spaniſh admiral, not conceiving ſuch a ſpirit of enterpriſe as was inherent in the Britiſh fleet, watched a favourable opportunity, and put to ſea. The moment his Lordſhip was appriſed of the courſe of the Spaniſh fleet, he called all his captains on board, explained to them in perſon his plan of attack, and gave them ſuch complete orders, that he had no occaſion, during the whole of the action, to make above three or four ſignals,

ſignals, a circumſtance that contributed conſiderably to perplex the fleet of the enemy.—This mode, it may be obſerved was alſo followed by Lord Nelſon; and to Lord St. Vincent's judgment and ſyſtem of tactics, may be attributed, in a great meaſure, the glorious victory of the Nile, a victory more brilliant with reſpect to the number of ſhips captured, not inferior perhaps in point of daring enterpriſe, but, certainly, not atchieved againſt an enemy ſo formidably ſuperior.

The Spaniſh fleet, commanded by Don Juan de Cordova, conſiſted of TWENTY-SEVEN ſail of the line, one of which was a four-decker, and mounted one hundred and thirty-ſix guns; ſix were three-deckers of one hundred and twelve guns each; two of eighty-four, and eighteen of ſeventy-four. The Britiſh ſquadron amounted only to FIFTEEN SAIL OF THE LINE, FOUR FRIGATES, A SLOOP OF WAR, AND A CUTTER; of theſe, ſix were three-deckers, eight were of ſeventy-four guns, and one of ſixty-four. The Spaniſh admiral had ſailed from Cordova on the 4th of February, and paſſed Gibraltar on the following day, having left in that bay three line-of-battle ſhips. On the night of the 11th, the Spaniſh fleet was firſt diſcovered by the Minerva frigate; and, in the night of the 13th, the two fleets approached ſo near each other, that their ſignal-guns could be heard: at day-break on the 14th, were in complete order, and by ſix A. M. were prepared for battle. About ten the Spaniſh fleet was viſible to all the Britiſh ſquadron, and ſome of the ſhips appeared to be ſeparated from the main body: the Britiſh admiral inſtantly conceived the deſign of cutting off theſe before they could re-join, or the main body arrive to their aſſiſtance: but, obſerving the poſition of the main body, he formed his fleet into a line of battle a-head and a-ſtern, and, about half paſt eleven, ſignified his intention to puſh through the enemy's line. The ſignal was accordingly hove out for action. His Lordſhip accompliſhed his deſign, and a part of the fleet was moſt effectually ſeparated from the main body, which, in conſequence of this ſeparation, was reduced to eighteen

eighteen ſail of the line. Towards this main body, which was then to windward, the Britiſh admiral directed his attention; and, a little after twelve, he again made the ſignal for paſſing through the enemy's line, which the Spaniſh commander attempted to counteract, by wearing round the rear of the Britiſh line, to join his ſhips to leeward; but this effort was counteracted by Commodore Nelſon, who had no ſooner paſſed the rear of the enemy, than he ordered his ſhip, the *Captain*, to wear and ſtand on the other tack. In executing this bold manœuvre, Commodore Nelſon found himſelf along-ſide the *Santiſſima Trinidada* of 136 guns, and the *Captain* only a 74. Although the *Santiſſima Trinidada* was aſſiſted by her two ſeconds, three-deckers, this gallant commander did not ſhrink from the conteſt. The *Culloden* and *Blenheim* had, however, by this time preſſed to his aſſiſtance, and the approach of admiral Parker, with four other ſhips of the line, prevented the Spaniſh admiral from effecting his deſign of re-joining the ſhips to leeward. The advantage at this period being completely with the Britiſh, the Spaniſh fleet were crowding off; but, in the confuſion of their retreat, ſome of the Spaniſh ſhips had doubled on each other. Admiral Jervis then bore up with the ſeven ſhips in his diviſion, with an intent to rake the enemy in ſucceſſion; but, not being able to effect this, he ordered the leading ſhip, the *Excellent*, to bear up, while he, in the *Victory*, paſſed to leeward of the rearmoſt ſhips of the enemy. Captain Collingwood, who commanded the *Excellent*, accordingly paſſed between the two rearmoſt ſhips of the enemy, and poured ſuch an effectual broadſide into the *San Iſidro*, that ſhe was obliged to ſubmit. After this, the *Excellent* moved on to the relief of the *Captain*, which was engaged with a three-decker; but, before ſhe could arrive, this ſhip got foul of her ſecond, a two-decker, in which ſtate they were both boarded by the *Captain*, and the ſmaller, the *San Nicolas*, was ſpeedily taken poſſeſſion of; the three-decker, the *San Joſef*, followed the fate of her ſecond, and became a prize to Commodore

modore Nelſon, who headed the party which boarded her from the *San Nicolas*. In the mean time, Admiral Jervis, who had ordered the *Victory* to be laid alongſide the *Salvador del Mundo*, the rearmoſt ſhip of the enemy, poured in ſuch an effectual diſcharge, that ſhe thought proper to ſtrike.—Thus four of the enemy's ſhips were in poſſeſſion of the Britiſh, whoſe loſs in killed and wounded, was exactly three hundred men: the loſs of the Spaniards, in the four captured ſhips alone, amounted to ſix hundred and ninety-three men; from which proportion, the remainder of their flying fleet muſt have ſuffered very conſiderably. The remainder of the Spaniſh fleet then took ſhelter in Cadiz, and Sir John Jervis ſoon after entered the Tagus, with his fleet and prizes, amidſt the cheering ſhouts of the populace, where three thouſand two hundred priſoners were landed from the four prizes. Thus were moſt propitiouſly averted the deſigns of a rapacious enemy, whoſe intent was to effect a junction with this defeated fleet, that it might diſgorge a legion of rapacious madmen on whatever ſhore of Great Britain might promiſe the ſureſt means of continuing that deſolating ſyſtem, which has long "frighted Europe from her propriety." And, had this daring enterpriſe not ſucceeded, and the little ſquadron of his Lordſhip had been defeated, the junction of the French, Dutch, and Spaniſh fleets, would have amounted to no leſs than eighty ſail of the line!

The gloom which overſpread the country was diſpelled by the news of this victory, which was received with that grateful exultation which characterizes Engliſhmen towards their brave defenders. Admiral Jervis received the thanks of the two Houſes, and was honoured with the title of Earl St. Vincent, from the ſcene of this brilliant action, and Baron Jervis of Meaford, from the place of his birth; he alſo received the gold medal and a penſion of three thouſand pounds per annum. Pauſing for a moment, and contemplating this glorious victory, not in invidious, but more diſtinctive, compariſon with others, it will readily be admitted, that other victories

tories may have been more brilliant in point of the number of ſhips captured; but it is alſo to be conſidered, that the power of the two contending fleets has, in other caſes, been nearly balanced. It was reſerved, however, for hiſtory to trace in characters bold and impreſſive as the achievement recorded, that a Britiſh admiral, with a ſquadron of *fifteen ſhips* of the line, engaged and vanquiſhed the fleet of Spain, conſiſting of *twenty-ſeven*, one of which was a *four-decker*, and mounted one hundred and thirty-ſix guns!

Upon the motion in the Houſe of Lords relative to the late vote of thanks upon his Lordſhip's victory, the Duke of Bedford propoſed, as this victory differed from every other, to introduce an amendment expreſſive of its characteriſtic diſtinction. His Royal Highneſs the Duke of Clarence ſupported this amendment; and, in his ſpeech upon this occaſion, gave ſeveral inſtances, from his own knowledge, of the excellent ſtate and diſcipline in which the men and ſhips under his Lordſhip's command were invariably kept; and, continued his Royal Highneſs, "without giving the ſlighteſt offence to any other, I do not heſitate to declare Sir John Jervis the very beſt officer in his Majeſty's ſervice."—His Royal Highneſs ſailed ſome time under his Lordſhip's command: his conduct, as a naval officer, is modelled on his Lordſhip's principles; and there is no doubt, but, ſhould any occaſion offer to call forth the exertion of his Royal Highneſs's talents, he will prove himſelf worthy of that ſchool in which he was bred, and not inferior to any of his predeceſſors in the path of naval renown.

His Lordſhip has been twice choſen a repreſentative of the borough of Great Yarmouth; and, upon the recommendation of his intimate friend and patron, the Marquis of Lanſdown, was introduced to the Whig-party in that town. At a later election, he declined Yarmouth in favour of his colleague, Mr. Beaufoy, and was returned with Sir Thomas Baring for High Wycombe. Upon the death of Lord Charles Townſhend, his Lordſhip was again put in nomination

nation for Yarmouth; but, although this friendly effort did not ſucceed, it ought in juſtice to be obſerved, in teſtimony of his Lordſhip's diſtinguiſhed merit on the one ſide, and the grateful ſenſe of it entertained by the conſtituents of this borough on the other, that, in his abſence, without any ſolicitation, even without his knowledge, and without expenſe, he was put in nomination. Indeed, ſo firm was his Lordſhip's attachment to the conſtituents of this borough, that he wiſhed to have taken the title of Earl of Yarmouth; but, upon being informed that his title was that of St. Vincent, his Lordſhip obſerved that he was very well ſatisfied, as "that title belonged to *every officer and ſeaman of his fleet.*"

In his political character, his Lordſhip has voted and acted with Oppoſition; and his ſpeeches in parliament relative to the impolicy of the preſent war are replete with that argument and point by which, upon every occaſion, his Lordſhip has been characterized.

His Lordſhip has long been in habits of intimacy with that great ſtateſman, the Marquis of Lanſdown, a nobleman not leſs diſtinguiſhed for profound political knowledge than the introduction and patronage of eminent public characters: to inſtance, amongſt many, Admiral Barrington and Colonel Barré, with all of whom Lord St. Vincent has lived in habits of intimacy and friendſhip: nor will his Lordſhip's diſcriminating judgment paſs without a due ſhare of applauſe, when it is known, that ſome of the firſt officers of the navy have been formed under him.* Amongſt theſe may be reckoned Lord Nelſon of the Nile: his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Clarence was alſo ſome time under his command, and has always profeſſed as much reſpect and eſteem for his Lordſhip as an individual, as he has declared his well-merited approbation of his Lordſhip's character as a naval commander.

* Evan Nepean, Eſq. the preſent ſecretary to the Admiralty, was originally introduced and patronized by Lord St. Vincent, under whom he ſerved as purſer.

In

In conſequence of ſevere illneſs, occaſioned by the baneful effects of a Weſt-India climate, his Lordſhip was compelled to leave his ſtation in the Mediterranean; but ſtill retains the command, until the ſtate of his health ſhall permit him to reſume it.

On the 18th of Auguſt, 1799, his Lordſhip landed in the dock-yard at Portſmouth, and went to the houſe of Sir Peter Parker, where he was waited upon by the mayor, aldermen, and burgeſſes; when the mayor preſented him with the following addreſs:

" My Lord,

" Impreſſed with the moſt grateful ſenſe of the high ſervices rendered to our country by the glorious victory, obtained by the fleet under your command, over that of the enemy, on the 14th of February, 1797, the mayor and aldermen of this borough elected and appointed your Lordſhip a burgeſs of this ancient corporation. They now take the earlieſt opportunity to ſhew their high eſteem and regard, by congratulating you on your ſafe return; ſincerely wiſhing your Lordſhip may be ſpeedily reſtored to health, that your country may again be benefited by freſh victories obtained by the fleet under your command."

To which his Lordſhip was pleaſed to return the following anſwer:

" I am very happy on this occaſion to repeat the ſenſe I entertain of the great honour done me by the mayor and aldermen of the borough of Portſmouth, in electing and appointing me a burgeſs of their ancient corporation, and in aſſuring them, that I ſhall be ready on all occaſions to promote the intereſt of the borough.

" I return you my thanks for your congratulations on my return to England, and kind wiſhes for the ſpeedy recovery of my health, which *if it pleaſes God to reſtore, the remainder of my life will be devoted to the ſervice of my king and country.*

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It is a moſt pleaſing and important communication to his country, that his Lordſhip is ſo far advanced in a ſtate of convaleſcence as ſoon to be enabled to perform his promiſe, and conclude a life diſtinguiſhed for glorious naval achievement in the ſervice of a country which he has ſo largely contributed to defend and to exalt.

His Lordſhip was made lieutenant in the year 1755, in the ſame year with Lord Duncan and Admiral Hotham. He was made poſt-captain in the year 1760, knight of the Bath in the year 1783, rear-admiral of the blue in the year 1787, rear-admiral of the white in year 1790, and is now admiral of the blue.

The whole life of this gallant Admiral, which has been devoted to the ſervice of his country, has been characterized by uncommon energy of mind, and ſuperior ſkill in his profeſſion. The ſtricteſt honour and the moſt inflexible integrity have ever diſtinguiſhed his political, and the firmeſt and warmeſt attachment to his friends has always characterized his ſocial life.

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IT has been juſtly remarked by Dr. Johnſon that, "many things which are falſe, are tranſmitted from book to book, and gain credit in the world." This obſervation may be applied to the different memoirs of Mr. Sheridan, which have been publiſhed. The groſſeſt errors acquire a ſort of currency among the majority of readers, who have not had an opportunity, or perhaps an inclination, to inveſtigate the accuracy of circumſtances, that ſeem of trifling moment. They are conſidered as unqueſtionable facts by ſucceeding biographers, and given to the public with embelliſhments which ſtrengthen deception, and frequently miſlead even the friends of the perſon, whoſe memoir is the ſubject of peruſal. But it is the duty of a biographer to be accurate in the moſt trivial circumſtances, which he has occaſion to relate, or to omit them altogether.

Richard Brinſley Sheridan is the third ſon of Mr. Thomas Sheridan, celebrated as an actor, eminent for his ſkill in elocution, and entitled to the gratitude of the public for his judicious and indefatigable exertions to improve the ſyſtem of education in this country. His works, with the exception of ſome plays, which he altered, and the life of Dean Swift, which he prepared for publication, in general, relate to the elements of language and the inſtruction of youth *. His father, the Reverend Doctor Thomas Sheridan, was a diſtinguiſhed divine, the ableſt

* Liſt of Mr. Sheridan's principal works:—The Loyal Lover, Romeo and Juliet, and Coriolanus, all altered and acted; Britiſh Education; A Diſcourſe delivered in the theatre at Oxford, and in the ſenate-houſe at Cambridge; A Diſſertation on the Cauſes of the Difficulties which occur in learning the Engliſh Tongue; A Courſe of Lectures on Elocution; A Plan of Education for the young Nobility and Gentry of Great Britain; Lectures on the Art of Reading, in two parts; A general Dictionary of the Engliſh Language; The Works of the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's, arranged, reviſed and corrected; Elements of Engliſh.

ſchool-maſter of his time, and the intimate friend of the Dean of St. Patrick's. Mr. Thomas Sheridan died at Margate on the 14th of Auguſt, 1788.

Mrs. Frances Sheridan, the mother of Richard Brinſley, a lady no leſs reſpected for her domeſtic virtues than admired for her literary attainments, was the author of Sidney Biddulph, a novel, which has the merit of combining the pureſt morality with the moſt powerful intereſt. She alſo wrote Nourjahad, an Oriental Tale, and the comedies of the Diſcovery, the Dupe, and a Trip to Bath. She died at Blois in France, the 17th of September, 1766 *.

The ſubject of this Memoir was born in Dorſet-ſtreet, Dublin, in the month of October, 1751 †. He was placed, in his ſeventh year, with his elder brother Charles Francis, late Secretary at War in Ireland, the correct and elegant hiſtorian of the revolution in Sweden, under the tuition of Mr. Samuel Whyte of Dublin, the friend of their father, who has been a long time highly eſteemed for his care and ability in the inſtruction of youth. They were the firſt pupils of Mr. Whyte, who opened his academy in April 1758, and it is a circumſtance not entirely unworthy of remark, that their early years afforded no promiſe of the abilities which they have ſince diſplayed. Mrs. Sheridan, whoſe diſcrimination cannot be queſtioned, took an opportunity, on committing them to the care of Mr. Whyte, to advert to the neceſſity of *patience* in the arduous profeſſion, which he had embraced, and addreſſed him in the following language—"Theſe boys will be your tutors

* Such was the reſpect paid to her memory by the biſhop of Blois, that he had it intimated to her friends, notwithſtanding the difference of religious perſuaſion, that they might take advantage of the night to depoſit her remains in conſecrated ground, and no interruption ſhould be given to the interment—an indulgence in France, which was perhaps never before extended to any reputed heretic. Dr. Young, in his Night Thoughts, bitterly complains of the different treatment which attended his daughter's burial in the ſame country.

† Extract from the regiſter of St. Mary's pariſh, Dublin. "Charles Francis, ſon of Thomas and Frances Sheridan, baptized July 23d, 1750—Richard Brinſley, ſon of Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, baptized November 4th, 1751."

Mr. Sheridan's eldeſt ſon Thomas, died in childhood.

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in that reſpect. I have hitherto been their only inſtructor, and they have ſufficiently exerciſed mine; for two ſuch impenetrable dunces I never met with."

Having remained nearly eighteen months with Mr. Whyte, they were ſent by that gentleman, in September, 1759, to Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, who then reſided at Windſor. There they paſſed nearly a year, their education, during that time, being ſuperintended by Mrs. Sheridan herſelf. Richard Brinſley was placed at Harrow ſchool, after the Chriſtmas of 1762. The obſervation, made by his mother on the occaſion, taken from one of her letters, now before the writer of this ſketch, is, when connected with his ſubſequent perſuits, rather of a ſingular kind. She ſays—"Dick has been at Harrow ſchool ſince Chriſtmas; as he probably may fall into *a buſtling life*, we have a mind to accuſtom him early to *ſhift for himſelf*." It has been reported, but without foundation, that he gave recitations from the Engliſh claſſics during his father's lectures. His father, on the contrary, never entertained an idea of employing him in that manner, as his brother Charles was very much his ſuperior in diligence, correctneſs of ear, and powers of voice, and was remarkable, when only eleven years old, for his elegant and impreſſive delivery of ſeveral paſſages from Milton.

The literary advancement of Mr. Sheridan at Harrow, a ſeminary which has ſent into the world many finiſhed ſcholars, and diſtinguiſhed characters, appears to have been at firſt retarded, either by the bluntneſs of his powers, or the negligence of his diſpoſition. Dr. Sumner, who was then maſter of the ſchool, had probably, from his conſtant attention to the boys of the higher forms, no opportunity of diſtinguiſhing the talents of his pupil; and it was reſerved for Dr. Parr, who was at that time one of the ſub-receptors, to diſcover and call into activity the faculties of young Sheridan's mind.

Richard Brinſley was at length rouſed from the inactivity of which his parents had ſo frequently complained, and the ſpirit of emulation produced exertions, which admonition and the

fear of correction had vainly endeavoured to excite. He felt, that to be diſtinguiſhed, it was neceſſary to devote a conſiderable part of his time to ſtudy. His memory was found to be uncommonly retentive, and his judgment correct; and when his mind was quickened by competition, his genius gradually expanded, into that happy verſatility of powers which has never deſerted him. But to be admired ſeemed his only object, and when that end was attained, he relaxed in his application, and ſunk into his former indolence. His laſt year at Harrow was ſpent more in reflecting on the acquirements he had made, and the eventful ſcenes of a buſy life, which were opening to his view, than in enlarging the circle of his claſſical and literary attainments.

His father was ſo highly pleaſed with the progreſs his ſon had made in his ſtudies, that he deemed it unneceſſary to ſend him to the univerſity; and he was, a ſhort time after his departure from Harrow, entered as a ſtudent in the Middle Temple. From that period to his marriage with Miſs Linley, the life of Mr. Sheridan ſeems involved in obſcurity, which it ſeems difficult to clear up in a ſatisfactory way. He certainly was not, for it is mentioned on the authority of perſons who were then on terms of intimacy with him, either the votary of faſhion, or immerſed in diſſipation.

Mr. Sheridan was, about the age of twenty, peculiarly fond of the ſociety of men of taſte and learning, and ſoon gave proofs that he was inferior to none of his companions in wit and argument. The ſum allowed for his ſupport muſt have been very ſmall, as his father's penſion from the crown * was barely ſufficient to provide for the expences incurred by a genteel, but moderate plan of living; nor were the emoluments ariſing from his lectures on elocution, and his performances as an actor, very conſiderable. In this ſituation, Mr. Sheridan had re-

* A penſion of 200l. per annum was granted by his Majeſty, in 1762, to Mr. Thomas Sheridan, without ſolicitation, as an encouragement to complete his Engliſh Dictionary, and as a reward for his literary labours.

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courſe to his literary talents for pecuniary ſupplies. He had read, immediately after his leaving Harrow, with minute attention, the works of our moſt eminent writers, and applied himſelf to the ſtudy of Engliſh compoſition in its various branches. Nothing, however but neceſſity could have induced him to exert his powers, as Dryden and many others had done before him, for immediate profit; for excluſively of an unaccountable propenſity to indolence, which formed the diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic of his youthful days, and from which he cannot now be ſtimulated but by ſome great and ſudden impulſe, he has ever conſidered a mercenary writer, who is occaſionally compelled to ſacrifice his own conviction to the inſtructions of his employer, as a character truly wretched and contemptible. That he maintained his independence of ſentiment there is no ground to diſbelieve; but he had the prudence to conceal from moſt of his acquaintances whatever ſhare he had in the fleeting productions of the day. He alſo directed his attention to the drama, as a ſubject, in every reſpect, calculated to reward his labours with fame and emolument; but diſguſted with ſome ſketches of comic character, which he drew, he actually deſtroyed them, and, in a moment of deſpair, renounced every hope of excellence as a dramatic writer. A poetical tranſlation of *Aſiſtænetus* has been attributed to him, but the ſhare which he had in that verſion was very limited.

But the views, which he may have then entertained, either with reſpect to the cultivation and exertion of his genius in literary purſuits, or to the ſtudy of the profeſſion to which he had been deſtined by his father, were all loſt in a paſſion, that maſtered his reaſon. He at once ſaw and loved Miſs Linley, and from his firſt introduction to her indulged the hope of triumphing over every obſtacle that oppoſed his happineſs. That lady was no leſs admirable for the elegant accompliſhments of her ſex and the affecting ſimplicity of her converſation, than for the charms of her perſon and the faſcinating powers of her voice. She was the principal performer in the oratorios, at Drury-

lane

lane theatre; and the ſcience, taſte, but above all, the enthuſiaſtic feeling which ſhe diſplayed in the execution of the airs aſſigned to her, are ſtill remembered with delight. The ſtrains which ſhe poured forth were the happieſt combinations of nature and of art; but nature predominated over art. Her accents were ſo melodious and captivating, and their paſſage to the heart ſo ſudden and irreſiſtible, that "liſt'ning Envy would have dropped her ſnakes, and ſtern-ey'd Fury's ſelf would have melted" at the ſounds.

Mr. Sheridan became her avowed ſuitor, and every idea of intereſt and ambition was abſorbed in his paſſion. Her father, Mr. Linley, the late ingenious compoſer, was not at firſt propitious to his paſſion, and he had many rivals to overcome in his attempts to gain the lady's affections. His perſeverance, however, encreaſed with the difficulties that preſented themſelves, and his courage and reſolution in vindicating Miſs Linley's reputation from a calumnious report, which had been baſely thrown out againſt it, obtained for him the fair prize for which he twice expoſed his life.

Mr. Matthews, a gentleman then well known in the faſhionable circles at Bath, had cauſed a paragraph to be inſerted in a public paper at that place, which tended to prejudice the character of this young lady, and Mr. Sheridan immediately applied for redreſs to the printer, who communicated the author's name. Mr. Matthews had, in the mean time, ſet out for London, and was cloſely purſued by Mr. Sheridan. They met and fought a duel with ſwords at a tavern * in Henrietta-ſtreet, Covent-garden. Mr. Sheridan's ſecond on the occaſion was his brother Charles Francis, the late Secretary at War in Ireland. Great courage and ſkill were diſplayed on both ſides; but Mr. Sheridan having ſucceeded in diſarming his adverſary, compelled him to ſign a formal retractation of the paragraph which had been publiſhed.

* The houſe ſituated at the weſt end of Henrietta-ſtreet, now a china-ware-houſe, and partly in Bedford-ſtreet.

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The conqueror inſtantly returned to Bath; and thinking that, as the inſult had been publicly given, the apology ſhould have equal notoriety, he cauſed it to be publiſhed in the ſame paper. Mr. Matthews ſoon heard of this circumſtance, and irritated at his defeat, and the uſe which his antagoniſt had made of his retractation, repaired to Bath, determined to call upon Mr. Sheridan for ſatisfaction. A meſſage was accordingly ſent, and a meeting agreed to: Mr. Sheridan would have been juſtified, according to the moſt delicate punctilios of honour, in declining the call; but he ſilenced all the objections that were ſtarted by his friends, and the parties met at Kingſdown. The victory was deſperately conteſted, and, after a diſcharge of piſtols, they fought with ſwords. They were both wounded, and cloſing with each other, fell on the ground, where the fight was continued until they were ſeparated. They received ſeveral wounds in this arduous ſtruggle for life and honour, and a part of his opponent's weapon was left in Mr. Sheridan's ear.

Miſs Linley did not ſuffer a long time to elapſe before ſhe rewarded Mr. Sheridan for the dangers he had braved in her defence, by accompanying him on a matrimonial excurſion to the Continent. The ceremony was again performed, on their return to England, with the conſent of the lady's parents.

From the period of her marriage, Mrs. Sheridan never appeared as a public performer. Her ſituation in the oratorios was filled by her younger ſiſter,* Miſs Mary Linley. Several lucrative propoſals were, about this time, made to Mrs. Sheridan, to induce her once more to charm the public ear, but they were rejected with diſdain by Mr. Sheridan. During their reſidence in Orchard-ſtreet, they were ſubject to very diſtreſſing embarraſſments; and it was not a very uncommon thing to want the neceſſary ſupplies for the

* This young Lady died ſinging "I know that my Redeemer liveth!"

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day that was paſſing over them. Yet the firmneſs of Mr. Sheridan, in reſiſting every propoſal of this nature, by which any loſs of eſtimation in the eyes of the world might be incurred, remained invincible. He received a letter from the proprietors of the Pantheon, which was then about to be opened, offering Mrs. Sheridan one thouſand pounds for her performance during twelve nights, and one thouſand pounds more for a benefit, the profits of which they were to appropriate to their own uſe. The propoſal of ſo large a ſum as two thouſand pounds, which might have been gained in a few weeks, was not even politely declined, but rejected with indignation by Mr. Sheridan, notwithſtanding the earneſt intreaties of his wife.

Mr. Sheridan, who was now encumbered with the cares of a family, felt the neceſſity of immediate exertion to provide for the preſſing calls, inſeparable from a domeſtic eſtabliſhment, which, if not ſplendid, was marked with all the appearances of genteel life.

His attempt at dramatic compoſition, and the moderate opinion which he entertained of his talents in that reſpect, have been already noticed; but his charming lines to Miſs Linley, and ſome occaſional productions, which diſplayed with equal happineſs his talent for natural tenderneſs of ſentiment and brilliancy of wit, had ſecured to him no mean reputation as a poet. Thus compelled to become a candidate for public favour, he once more reſumed his courtſhip of the comic muſe; and having finiſhed his play of the *Rivals*, he preſented it to the Manager of Covent-Garden Theatre, and it was accordingly repreſented on the 17th of January, 1775.

This comedy was juſtly conſidered, by candid criticiſm, as a moſt promiſing eſſay for an author in his twenty-fifth year, but the public opinion did not exactly coincide with that of acknowledged judges of dramatic merit; and, in conſequence of ſome ſlight diſapprobation, it was withdrawn after the firſt night's performance. The partial failure of the piece

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has been attributed to the indifferent acting of Mr. Lee, in the character of Sir Lucius O'Trigger. For that gentleman, though allowed to poſſeſs conſiderable merit in parts of much more importance, had not ſufficiently ſtudied the whimſical humour and national manner of Iriſh characters. Whatever may have been the cauſe, Mr. Sheridan withdrew his play without any compulſion; and, having made ſome judicious alterations, both in the progreſs of the plot and in the language, it was ſhortly after brought forward again, and received in the moſt favourable manner.

The fable of the Rivals poſſeſſes a ſufficient degree of probability to render it intereſting; the incidents ſucceed each other in natural progreſſion, and the dialogue is witty, humorous, and characteric, interſperſed with pathetic appeals to the heart, but without thoſe extraordinary effuſions of excellence which, from the pen of the ſame writer, have ſince delighted the fancy and improved the underſtanding, on the ſtage and in the cloſet.

Had Mr. Sheridan's powers been evinced but by this comedy only, he would have been placed at no very great diſtance beyond the common crowd of play-wrights.

His next production was the farce of *St. Patrick's Day*, or *The Scheming Lieutenant*, a piece evidently written more for the purpoſe of trying his ability to excite broad laughter and humorous merriment, than with a view of enlarging his reputation. It was preſented by him to Mr. Clinch, as a teſtimony of his good opinion, for the aſſiſtance he had experienced from that gentleman's excellent performance of Sir Lucius O'Trigger, in the Rivals, in which he had ſucceeded Mr. Lee. The farce of St. Patrick's Day was actually written in eight and forty hours, and was performed, for the benefit of Mr. Clinch, on the 2d of May, in the ſame year.

At the commencement of the enſuing ſeaſon, he brought out his comic opera of the *Duenna*, a compoſition in every reſpect

reſpect ſuperior to the general claſs of Engliſh operas then in faſhion. The plot of this pleaſing piece, which deſervedly retains its popularity on the ſtage, is ſimple, and incapable of producing much intereſt; but the elegance of the diction, the ſweetneſs of the poetry, and the appropriate ſpirit infuſed into the characters, place it beyond all competition with the ſing-ſong trifles which were then in high repute. The Duenna ſurpaſſed even the Beggars' Opera in attraction and popularity, and was performed ſeventy-five nights during the ſeaſon, while Gay's ſingular production ran only ſixty-five.

Mr. Sheridan's circumſtances becoming about this time more independent, and his genius having ſtruck out a line productive of fame and profit, he began to indulge in expenſive entertainments, and he found no difficulty in extending his connections in faſhionable life. "The feaſt of "reaſon, and the flow of ſoul," were ſeldom abſent from the hoſpitalities of his houſe, and they were unqueſtionably very much promoted by the ſtrength of argument and brilliancy of wit which he could call forth in the hours of inſtructive enquiry or ſportive conviviality, as well as by the charms of Mrs. Sheridan's converſation, and her faſcinating powers of voice.

Mr. Garrick having reſolved to retire from the management of Drury-lane Theatre, a negociation for the purchaſe of his ſhare of the patent was entered into with him by Dr. Ford, Mr. Linley, and Mr. Sheridan, who, in 1776, paid the ſum of 30,000l. for it.

It now became his intereſt to apply his talents in ſupport of the theatre in which he was ſo materially concerned, and he immediately brought out the *Trip to Scarborough*, al-

* Mr. Lacy, whoſe property, on the death of his father, was eſtimated at 80,000l. is now, with a large family, in very diſtreſſed circumſtances. The writer of this biographical ſketch is in poſſeſſion of ſeveral curious particulars with reſpect to the transfer of Mr. Lacy's property in the theatre to Mr. Sheridan, which will probably, at no very diſtant period, be given to the public.

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tered from Vanburgh's comedy of the Relapſe. It was performed on the 24th of February, 1777; and though the dialogue was much improved, and the incidents judiciouſly altered, the audience did not receive it in a very favourable manner on the firſt night of repreſentation, on account of the incorrectneſs of the performers in general. It was afterwards played to crowded houſes.

His next production was the comedy of the *School for Scandal*, which has deſervedly raiſed his fame to undiſputed pre-eminence over all the cotemporary writers, and conferred, in the opinion of the foreign *literati*, a luſtre on the Britiſh comedy, which it did not previouſly poſſeſs. The School for Scandal was performed on the 8th of May, 1777, and attracted from that late period to the concluſion of the ſeaſon, the moſt faſhionable and numerous audiences. A play of ſuch ſuperior merit, and written by ſo young an author, was rewarded with unqualified applauſe. The critics of that time were anxiouſly engaged in extolling the beauties with which it abounds, and ſome of them were not wanting to diſcover others, that either do not exiſt, or are ſtill unknown to the writer himſelf. The tide of public favour ran with irreſiſtible impetuoſity, and dramatic excellence, and the name of Sheridan, became ſynonimous. But, although it muſt ever rank as a finiſhed piece in the ſimplicity of plot, in the natural progreſſion of incident, in the faithful imitation of manners, in the vigorous and exact delineation of living character, and above all, in fertility of wit and felicity of expreſſion; it is to be lamented, that the author did not apply himſelf with more care to improve the heart, and ſtimulate the public mind to the cultivation of morality.

The faſhionable taſte for Scandal is indeed expoſed; but it is expoſed to the laughter, not to the contempt and deteſtation, of the audience. It produces mirth, but does not excite execration. The hypocrite, who covers his abominable deſigns with the maſk of honour and integrity, is indeed puniſhed;

niſhed; but the puniſhment is not commenſurate to the offence, and our abhorrence is weakened by the unſeaſonable playfulneſs of the poet's ſatire. The author is too ſtrenuous an advocate for diſſipation of manners, and the vices of libertiniſm are too ſucceſsfully defended.

Mr. Sheridan appears, in a great meaſure, to have forgotten the legitimate end of dramatic compoſition, and not to have been ſufficiently ſenſible, that whatever is intended for the amuſement of ſociety at large, ſhould alſo be capable of communicating ſolid inſtruction, and producing real amendment. It has been remarked, with ſome degree of propriety, that the characters of Joſeph and Charles have been taken from Fielding's Blifil, and Tom Jones; and that the diſguiſe aſſumed by Sir Oliver Surface has been borrowed from a ſimilar incident in Mrs. Sheridan's novel. He has never publiſhed it, becauſe, as a literary production, he ſays, he has no confidence in its merit: its ſucceſs on the ſtage he aſcribes to the acting of Miſs Farren and Meſſrs. King, Palmer, and Smith.

Early in the following ſeaſon, he produced the muſical piece of *The Camp*, a temporary *jeu d'eſprit*, which afforded much entertainment; and his *Critic*, written upon the model of the Duke of Buckingham's Rehearſal, came out on the 30th of October, 1787. The ſucceſs of the Critic was complete and well deſerved; and, though the ſubject had been very ably handled by his ingenious predeceſſor, he ſucceeded in embelliſhing it with ſo great a variety of ludicrous incidents, and introduced ſuch extraordinary novelty of ſatire, as to diveſt it of the ſlighteſt appearance of imitation.

The lamented death of the Britiſh Roſcius, in 1779, furniſhed Mr. Sheridan with an opportunity of exerciſing powers of a very different nature; and he wrote the monody to the memory of Mr. Garrick, which was recited at Drury-lane Theatre, by Mrs. Yates, in the month of March, of the

ſame

ſame year. The ſentiments are, in general, appropriate to the occaſion, and the poetry poſſeſſes ſtrength and melody, but the effect was not adequate to the expectations of the author and his friends.

Notwithſtanding the profits which he derived from his pieces, and the ſhare he had in the theatre, which was very conſiderable, as he had obtained Mr. Lacy's intereſt in the patent, a property equally valuable with that of Mr. Garrick, and of courſe worth, on the loweſt calculation, thirty thouſand pounds, his pecuniary embarraſſments had conſiderably increaſed. His domeſtic eſtabliſhment was not only very expenſive, but conducted without any kind of regularity. The perſuaſions of Mr. Fox, whoſe friendſhip he had carefully cultivated, operated with a firm conviction of his own abilities, in determining him to procure a ſeat in the houſe of Commons. For ſome time before he had endeavoured to qualify himſelf for public ſpeaking, by declaiming at the private meetings of ſeveral of his moſt intimate acquaintances; and it was cuſtomary with him, like the logical diſputants of antiquity, to ſtart a ſubject of diſcuſſion, and *advocate* either ſide of the queſtion, for the purpoſe of exerciſing his ingenuity in argument.

Mr. Sheridan was, about this time, honoured with the notice of a noble Duke, now high in office, and who then poſſeſſed great influence in oppoſition; and an application was made, through the medium of a common friend, to obtain his Grace's nomination of Mr. Sheridan for one of his boroughs. The application however proved fruitleſs, as the noble Duke had already completed his liſt, or placed little reliance on the parliamentary powers of his dramatic acquaintance.

Mr. Sheridan was not diſcouraged by the diſappointment, and a general election taking place, in 1780, he reſolved to canvaſs for himſelf, and choſe the town of Stafford for the ſcene of his firſt political operations. In the adoption of that

that meaſure, he appears to have been actuated by ſeveral important conſiderations. The borough of Stafford was not devoted to the intereſt of any particular patron; it was free from all ſuſpicion of miniſterial influence, and the arts of corruption had ever tried, without effect, to undermine the independence of the electors. At leaſt, no legal proof has been yet brought forward to eſtabliſh any inſtance of corruption. One of the late members, who again offered himſelf as a candidate, had not only become unpopular, but odious to ſeveral of the leading men of Stafford.

All theſe circumſtances, ſtrengthened by a preſſing invitation, and a promiſe of the moſt zealous ſupport from a principal gentleman of the place, induced Mr. Sheridan to propoſe himſelf as a candidate to repreſent the borough of Stafford in the next parliament. He accordingly proceeded to the ſpot, and was perfectly ſatisfied with the pleaſing proſpect of ſucceſs that opened to his ambition. But although he experienced uncommon diſintereſtedneſs, and great liberality of conduct in the people of Stafford, a certain degree of expence which has, for a long time, blended itſelf with the pureſt proceedings of the elective ſyſtem in this country, was found unavoidable, and our young politician's reſources were not in the moſt flouriſhing ſtate. He was ſoon convinced, that the moderate ſum of one thouſand pounds was a *ſine quâ non*, which alone could bring the negotiation between the new champion of liberty and the independent electors to a ſucceſsful concluſion. The money was at length raiſed, and one of the gentlemen who contributed to the ſupply, has been ſince liberally rewarded with an opera ſhare.

Mr. Sheridan was accordingly returned for Stafford, and from the moment of his introduction into the houſe of Commons, became a firm ſupporter of all the meaſures of oppoſition. Though he contented himſelf, in the commencement of the ſeſſion, with giving a ſilent vote againſt the miniſter, he

He was indefatigable without doors in ſeconding the views of his party, and in exciting the clamour of public indignation againſt the meaſures of government. He conſtantly attended popular meetings and political clubs, and his pen was employed with ſucceſs in ſeveral periodical publications. He had a conſiderable ſhare in the *Engliſhman*, which was conducted with great acrimony againſt the adminiſtration of Lord North; and when the Rockingham party came into power in 1782, his exertions were rewarded with the appointment of Under Secretary to Mr. Fox, then Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

The death of the Marquis of Rockingham, and the unexpected elevation of the Earl of Shelburne to the important office of Firſt Lord of the Treaſury, completely defeated the views of oppoſition, and the ever-memorable coalition, for which even the ſtrong plea of neceſſity is but a ſorry apology, having been formed, Mr. Sheridan was once more called upon to carry on literary hoſtilities againſt the new adminiſtration. The periodical work of the *Jeſuit* ſoon appeared, and ſeveral very diſtinguiſhed members of the party are confidently ſtated to have contributed to that production. A learned doctor, remarkable for his revival of the doctrine of the Greek philoſoper, Pyrrho; and more celebrated for his attachment to a great character, whoſe name will laſt, notwithſtanding his inconſiſtencies, while a ſingle admirer of ſplendid and original genius ſhall remain in the world, than for any intellectual vigour of his own, has been mentioned as one of the authors of a paper in the Jeſuit, notorious for its ſevere cenſure of an illuſtrious perſonage. The paper in queſtion attracted the attention of government, and a proſecution was ordered to be commenced againſt Mr. Wilkie, the printer.

The legal proceedings were, however, carried on but ſlowly, and the coalition having gained a deciſive victory over the new-fangled adminiſtration, formed by the Shelburne party, Mr. Sheridan was once more brought into place, and appointed,

pointed, in April 1783, Secretary of the Treaſury. It was extremely natural to ſuppoſe, that the Jeſuit would not be attacked by thoſe, to whoſe cauſe it had been devoted; but the ſpirit of proſecution, though allowed to ſlumber for a ſhort interval, broke out with redoubled vigour, when his Grace of Portland was ſucceeded, as Firſt Lord of the Treaſury, by Mr. Pitt, and an entire change took place in men and meaſures.

The Attorney-General was obliged, *ex officio*, to continue the proſecution, the ground-work of which ſtill exiſted, and Mr. Wilkie, who had the magnanimity to conceal the names of the gentlemen by whom he had been employed, was ſentenced to an impriſonment of twelve months. The ſyſtem of party-politics evinced in this inſtance, as it has in almoſt every other caſe, ſelfiſhneſs and ingratitude. The man who poſſeſſed the courage to expoſe his own perſon to puniſhment, and his circumſtances to ruin, in order to ſcreen thoſe by whom he had been engaged in his profeſſional purſuits, for the purpoſe of promoting their favourite end, was treated with neglect, and it will, with difficulty, be credited, that his expences have not been yet paid. It would, no doubt, be unjuſt to accuſe Mr. Sheridan of having had any ſhare in the tranſaction, as his acknowledged integrity muſt exempt him from all ſuſpicion.

With what effect the talents of Mr. Sheridan were exerted in the diſcharge of his official duties, while he filled the ſituations of Under Secretary of State and Joint Secretary of the Treaſury, it is immaterial to enquire. The whole of the time which he paſſed in theſe places was not quite a year, and the chief requiſites to perform the duties of them are attention, punctuality, and diſpatch—qualities in which his moſt enthuſiaſtic admirers will hardly contend for his pre-eminence. Until 1783, he appears to have been a figure introduced into the political picture, more for the purpoſe of completing the group in the back ground, than of ſtanding forward

forward as a principal character. But the irreſiſtible impulſe of genius gave a ſudden expanſion to his powers, extricated him from the inferior eſtimation in which he was held, and placed him, if not in an equal rank with Mr. Fox and Mr. Burke, at leaſt, in the very next to it.

His defence of Mr. Fox's celebrated Eaſt-India Bill was diſtinguiſhed for logical preciſion; and though he had not, on previous occaſions, delivered his ſentiments with extraordinary ability, his ſpeech on that intereſting ſubject was ſo maſterly, as to induce the public opinion to ſelect him from the ſecond claſs of parliamentary ſpeakers. In 1785, his powers began to expand in proportion to the confidence which he acquired in debate, and his obſervations on Mr. Pitt's Perfumery Bill were juſtly admired for ſplendid effuſions of wit and great force of argument. But the part he took in the conſideration of the Iriſh Propoſitions, which were brought forward during the ſame year, was peculiarly ſtriking, and raiſed his reputation as an orator to a very ſuperior degree. In calling the attention of the houſe to the fourth propoſition, he diſplayed a general knowledge of the intereſts of both kingdoms, and a depth of inveſtigation which the moſt ſanguine expectations of his friends could not have anticipated; and, from that moment, he was viewed as a formidable opponent by the preſent miniſter, and looked up to with admiration, as a principal leader of the party to which he belonged.

Mr. Sheridan had many difficulties to encounter in his parliamentary life. His father was an actor, he had himſelf largely contributed to the entertainment of the public, and was the manager of a theatre. The prejudices of mankind, however ridiculous, are too often victorious over the claims of genuine merit, and would have, perhaps, prevailed in intimidating any other perſon than the man againſt whom they were, in this inſtance, directed. Fully convinced of his decided ſuperiority over birth and fortune, he proceeded, regardleſs of perſonal reflections; and if his opponents ſucceeded in irritat-

ing him by the aſperity of their alluſions, he met them with manly reſolution, chaſtiſed them with the laſh of legitimate ſatire, or held them up to univerſal ridicule in burſts of extemporaneous wit, that have never been equalled in the Britiſh ſenate. The conduct of the Premier, in his unguarded alluſions to Mr. Sheridan's dramatic purſuits was ſeverely puniſhed; and that dignified manner which ſhould mark the behaviour of the firſt ſtateſman in Europe, ſitting in the firſt aſſembly in Europe, was, for a moment, transformed into the quarrelſome petulance of the *angry boy*. The correction was productive of ſalutary effects, and Mr. Sheridan has completely triumphed over the ſplenetic and paltry efforts of his opponents to check his talents, and degrade his public character.

He was rapidly approaching to perfection, as a public ſpeaker, and the impeachment of Mr. Haſtings ſupplied him with an opportunity of diſplaying powers which were then unrivalled, but have ſince rather declined than ſuſtained themſelves with equal vigour. His ſpeech delivered in the houſe of Commons, in April, 1787, on the eighth article, as ſtated in the order laid down by Mr. Burke, relative to "money corruptly and illegally taken," was allowed to equal the moſt argumentative and impaſſioned orations that had ever been addreſſed to the judgment and feelings of the Britiſh parliament. He fixed the uninterrupted attention of the houſe for upwards of five hours, confirmed the minds of thoſe who wavered, and produced co-operation from a quarter, which, it was ſuppoſed, would have been hoſtile to any further proceeding.

Mr. Sheridan ſeems, at this period, to have been convinced of the neceſſity of indefatigable application and perſevering induſtry, to ſupport the ſplendid fame he had acquired, and accordingly prepared himſelf, with unremitting aſſiduity, to perform his official duties as one of the managers of the proſecution, inſtituted by the repreſentatives of the people againſt Mr. Haſtings, and carried on before the ſupreme tribunal of the nation.

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In the long examination of Mr. Middleton, he gave decided proofs of a ſtrong and diſcriminating mind; but when, in June 1788, he ſummed up the evidence on the charge, reſpecting the confinement and impriſonment of the Princeſſes of Oude, and the ſeizure of their treaſures, his ſuperiority over his colleagues was eſtabliſhed by univerſal conſent. His mind, indeed, appears to have been elevated by the importance of the ſubject; and he conceived its various relations with a perſpicuity that was embelliſhed by the nobleſt effuſions of eloquence—

> "Animo vidit; ingenio complexus eſt;
> Eloquentiâ ornavit."

But however admirable his ſpeech may be now conſidered as a compoſition, there were, at that time, ſeveral circumſtances of magnitude and ſingularity, that conſpired to give it a celebrity, which poſterity will ſcarcely admit it to poſſeſs. To form a juſt opinion of this memorable oration, which occupied the attention of the court, and excited the admiration of the public, for five hours, it would be neceſſary to have heard Mr. Sheridan himſelf; and, to thoſe who have not witneſſed the correctneſs, ſtrength, and animation of his elocution, it will be ſufficient to repeat what was ſaid by Eſchines to the people of Rhodes in praiſe of the oration which had cauſed his baniſhment—"What applauſes would you not have conferred, had you heard Demoſthenes deliver it himſelf?"

It is difficult to ſelect any part of it as the ſubject of peculiar encomium. The addreſs, with which he arranged his materials; the art and force with which he anticipated objections; the unexampled ingenuity with which he commented on the evidence, and the natural boldneſs of his imagery, are equally entitled to panegyric. He combined the three kinds of eloquence. He was clear and unadorned

—diffuſe and pathetic—animated and vehement. There was nothing ſuperfluous—no affected turn—no glittering point—no falſe ſublimity. Compaſſion and indignation were alternately excited, and the wonderous effects related of the eloquence of Greece and Rome were almoſt revived.

Soon after this great æra in the public life of Mr. Sheridan, the deplorable indiſpoſition of his Majeſty, which plunged the country into a ſtate of the deepeſt diſtreſs, led to the diſcuſſion of a queſtion, exceeding in political magnitude every other national occurrence from the revolution of 1688 down to that time. The miniſtry and oppoſition eſſentially differed with reſpect to the means to be adopted for ſupplying the defect of the perſonal exerciſe of the royal authority, and Mr. Sheridan took a leading part in the attempts which were made to declare the Prince of Wales regent, without ſuch reſtrictions as Parliament ſhould think fit to impoſe. The favour in which he was held at Carleton Houſe was certainly ſuperior to that enjoyed by the moſt diſtinguiſhed members of the party, and his conduct occaſioned ſuſpicions that have never been completely removed. His Royal Highneſs was very much in the habit of conſulting Mr. Sheridan, and his anſwer to Mr. Pitt's letter, with reſpect to the reſtrictions on the regency, which was allowed to be dignified, cautious, and temperate, has been principally aſcribed to the prudent counſels of this gentleman.

Mr. Sheridan's zealous interference in ſupport of his patron is, perhaps, the only inſtance in which he can be charged with political inconſiſtency. The ſpirit of party, and the ſtrong prejudices of the moment, are now conſigned to oblivion; and, it may be fairly aſked, whether he, or any other declared advocate of the rights of the people acted conſiſtently in oppoſing the following reſolution, which was propoſed by Mr. Pitt, and paſſed by the Britiſh parliament:—

" Reſolved,

" Reſolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is the right and duty of the Lords ſpiritual and temporal, and Commons of Great Britain, now aſſembled, and lawfully, fully, and freely repreſenting all the eſtates of the people of this realm, to provide the means of ſupplying the defect of the perſonal exerciſe of the Royal Authority, ariſing from his Majeſty's indiſpoſition, in ſuch a manner as the exigency of the caſe may appear to require."

Mr. Sheridan's objection to the reſolution did not ariſe from any ſtatement, contained in it, reſpecting the *full* and *free* repreſentation of the people, but he and his friends argued againſt the power of both houſes, in any caſe, to limit the authority of the regent, and contended, that the immediate nomination of the heir apparent ought to take place, as a matter of conſtitutional right. Thoſe, who are ſincere admirers of the Britiſh conſtitution, as derived from the legitimate ſource of authority, will not readily coincide in the doctrines advanced upon the occaſion, by the leading members of oppoſition. But the proſpect of approaching power can quiet the moſt conſcientious ſcruples, and ſilence ſtatements that would otherwiſe have been proclaimed as the inalienable rights of Engliſhmen, and the palladium of public ſecurity.

While his Majeſty laboured under the awful viſitation of Providence, it would be an endleſs, and indeed, a painful taſk, to deſcribe the dark intrigues and cabals, carried on to encreaſe the ſtrength of oppoſition. Every art was practiſed, every trick tried, to add to the number of thoſe who were willing to fall proſtrate before the riſing ſun, and the artifices employed were, in ſeveral inſtances, ſucceſsful, in ſeducing even the minds of perſons, who had enjoyed the confidence, and ſhared the munificence of their ſovereign. The King, reduced to the moſt lamentable ſtate, which humanity can conceive, was—

" Deſerted at his utmoſt need,
By thoſe his former bounty fed."

Several

Several meetings were held at C—r—d houſe, and among the viſitors were the Duke of Q——y, the Marquis of L——n, and Lord M—f—y. Mr. Sheridan was a conſtant attendant, and an illuſtrious perſonage condeſcended to aſſiſt at councils, which, it muſt be granted, were more influenced by a true ſenſe of public good than by any ſelfiſh and intereſted motives. The plans of the party were, however, fortunately baffled by the unexpected recovery of his Majeſty, and their reinſtatement in place was deferred to a more auſpicious moment.

Mr. Sheridan has ſince continued a ſtrenuous opponent of the meaſures of adminiſtration, and is now, in conſequence of Mr. Fox's ſeceſſion, placed at the head of oppoſition. With the ſingle exception of his conduct on the queſtion of the regency, his parliamentary life cannot be accuſed of inconſiſtency. He profeſſed in common with moſt of his friends, an enthuſiaſtic admiration of the French Revolution, and conſidered the conſtitution it had formed, as a glorious fabric of human wiſdom, erected for the protection of human happineſs; but when he ſaw that conſtitution defaced and polluted by the frantic and murderous policy of the ſucceſſive rulers of France, he readily concurred in reprobating crimes, which were deſtructive of freedom and ſocial happineſs, and directly repugnant to the principles on which the revolution was originally effected.

He has ever been the zealous ſupporter of parliamentary reform, and the uniform friend of the liberty of the preſs and religious toleration. In financial conſiderations, in our political and commercial relations with Ireland, and more particularly in every important diſcuſſion relative to conſtitutional ſubjects, he has evinced great depth of enquiry, and acuteneſs of diſcrimination. He has frequently riſen ſuperior to the ſelfiſh drudgery of a mere partizan, and his ſpirited conduct during the awful criſis of the naval mutiny, received the thanks of the miniſter, and will be long

long remembered with gratitude by the nation. He expreſſed his conviction, that, whatever difference in political ſentiments might prevail among the members of the houſe of Commons, the moment was come, when his Majeſty had an undoubted right to call upon all his ſubjects of every rank and deſcription, for their zealous co-operation in ſupporting the due execution of the laws, and in giving every poſſible efficiency to the meaſures of government.

Mr. Sheridan's voice is ſtrong and diſtinct, but his delivery is often precipitate, and his manner unimportant. He wants the dignity of Mr. Pitt and the fire of Mr. Fox; but in the ingenuity of obſervation, and the felicity of reply, he is not inferior to either of them in their happieſt moments. He excels in raillery, which, at once elegant and ſevere, is peculiarly ſuited to the ſenate. Though he ſeems cautiouſly to avoid the uſe of figurative diction and ſplendid imagery in his ſpeeches, his celebrated oration on the trial of Mr. Haſtings is an ample teſtimony of his ability to introduce them with the moſt appropriate effect.

It cannot be denied, that his propenſity to epigrammatic point and humourous alluſion frequently exceeds the bounds of propriety, and hurries him to a levity of remark that is at variance with the gravity of the ſubject in diſcuſſion. We laugh indeed for the moment, but ſoon condemn the ſpeaker for trifling with a great object of national conſideration. When, for inſtance, on the motion for repealing the act for Suſpending the Habeas Corpus Act, and on the meaſure for arming the country, in conſequence of his Majeſty's meſſage, he has talked of "an army of ſix men, commanded by a taylor, and encamped in a back garret," and of "foraging in fruit ſhops, parading in Piccadilly, and taking the field in Rotten-row;" —who can avoid condemning what certainly is not authorized by the artifice, much leſs by the art, of eloquence? The rules of public conduct, like the laws of the drama, are founded

ed in conſiſtency; and with the latter Mr. Sheridan cannot be unacquainted,—

"Singula quæque locum teneant ſortita decenter."

There has appeared of late in his ſpeeches a negligence, that is evidently cauſed by momentary indolence, or the want of previous application; and the obſervation made by the firſt ſtateſman of the country, that "however greatly he admired the talents of Mr. Sheridan, he was confident that gentleman might exert them with more effect," is perfectly correct. "Honied aſſent, ſo pleaſant to the taſte of man," has ever been peculiarly grateful to Mr. Sheridan's feelings, and a cheer from the oppoſition bench, excited by ſome brilliant effuſion of wit, has often ſuppreſſed him in any farther diſplay of ability in debate. He had gained what he ſo much courted, and he reſolved to preſerve it undiminiſhed.

Mrs. Sheridan died in June, 1792, and he has a ſon by that lady, who poſſeſſes conſiderable abilities. In 1795, he married Miſs Ogle, youngeſt daughter of the Reverend Doctor Newton Ogle, Dean of Wincheſter. The iſſue of his ſecond marriage is alſo a ſon.

His conduct as manager and principal proprietor of the firſt theatre in the kingdom, and his punctuality in the diſcharge of the duties contracted by him in that ſituation, have rarely been the ſubject of praiſe.

In private life, Mr. Sheridan is one of the moſt entertaining and inſtructive companions in the kingdom. His converſation abounds in witty ſimilitudes, humorous alluſions, and lively repartee; and when any ſubject of enlarged inveſtigation is brought forward, the treaſures of general learning, with which he has ſtored his mind, are proportionate to the exigency of the moment. It is, perhaps, in the knowledge of human nature that he ſurpaſſes all his cotemporaries. His ſagacity has been particularly exerciſed in diſcovering the character and propenſities of his acquaintances, or of thoſe with whom he

he has any buſineſs to tranſact, and he generally ſucceeds in converting this kind of knowledge to his own advantage.

After a retirement of twenty years from the ſtage, Mr. Sheridan came forward, at the end of laſt ſeaſon, in the humble ſituation of the editor of Kotzebue, the celebrated German dramatiſt, and appears, in that inſtance, to have been more actuated by his intereſt as a manager, than by the generous feelings of a writer, emulous of laſting fame. To gratify the public taſte for ſcenes of exquiſite ſenſibility, ſupported by incidents, ſometimes impoſſible, and, in almoſt every caſe, improbable; and to ſtrengthen the exhibition by the attractions of ſtriking machinery, ſcenic grandeur, and appropriate muſic, was evidently the object which he had in view in that ſtrange degradation of ſuperior talents. The preſſing wants of the theatre, and of thoſe dependent upon its ſucceſs, called for inſtantaneous relief, and the moſt likely mode of procuring it was an unqualified compliance with popular abſurdity.

"For we who live to pleaſe, muſt pleaſe to live."

is the only apology he can make, for the proſtitution of his muſe.

It would ſeem that Mr. Sheridan had altogether forgotten he had written the *Critic*; for there are very few ſcenes or paſſages in *Pizarro*, which can eſcape the juſt ſatire and humorous ridicule contained in that production. He has, indeed, condeſcended, in his alteration of the *Death of Rolla*, to revive the character of the ingenious Mr. *Puff*; for the moſt prejudiced mind muſt feel how very pointedly Mr. Sheridan's obſervations in the Critic apply to the favourite tragedy of Pizarro:—"Now then for my magnificence! my battle! my noiſe! and proceſſion!—Smaller things muſt give way to a ſtriking ſcene at the opening; that's the rule:—A play is not to ſhew occurrences that happen every day, but things juſt ſo ſtrange,

ſtrange, that though they never did, they might happen." But the criticiſms of Mr. Sheridan were no longer remembered; ſound and ſhew triumphed over common ſenſe; the numerous admirers of ſenſibility, tortured to exceſs, were gratified the votaries of pompous exhibition and romance were indulged in their favourite paſſion; and Pizarro, with all its defects, recommended by the joint reputation of Kotzebue and Sheridan, attracted more numerous and faſhionable audiences than have ever attended an Engliſh theatre.

The ſpeech of Rolla, exhorting the Peruvians to defen their king and country, their civil and religious inſtitutions, againſt a ferocious band of lawleſs invaders, was highly inſtrumental to the ſucceſs of the piece, and it is the only paſſage of the play to which Mr. Sheridan has an excluſive claim. The appeal to the people in ſupport of their rights and national independence, is bold and animating. The ſtriking image of the vulture and the lamb, is, however, uſed with more effect in his ſpeech on the impeachment of Mr. Haſtings; but his right to borrow from himſelf cannot be queſtioned.

The genius of the German dramatiſt is unqueſtionably of the firſt order. In conducting a paſſion through its moſt intricate mazes, he is, perhaps, unequalled, and he ſeldom fails to produce emotions of the moſt agonizing kind. But probability, the genuine ſource of concern and dramatic feeling, is too frequently violated. An inſtant's reflection is ſufficient to expoſe the deluſion of the ſcene, and deſtroy the intereſt which the ſkill of the poet creates.

Mr. Sheridan muſt be convinced, that, with the exception of Rolla's patriotic harangue, Pizarro is more indebted for its popularity to the merits of the original, to the actor, the machiniſt, the painter, and the compoſer, than to any alterations he has made, or to any judgment he has evinced in adapting it to the Engliſh ſtage. It is to be lamented, that he has, by this motley exhibition, degraded his reputation as the firſt dramatic

dramatic writer of the country, and ſunk himſelf to a level with the play-wrights of the day, to whom profit is every thing, and fame nothing. It remains for him to ſhake off that indolence, which appears to have become conſtitutional, and make a ſatisfactory atonement, by ſome work of genius, for his mercenary conduct in confirming the vitiated ſtate of public taſte, againſt which he contended, in 1779, with ſo much energy and ſucceſs.

N.

MR.

THE HON. THOMAS ERSKINE.

THE ſubject of theſe pages, is the third ſon of the late Earl of Buchan, and youngeſt brother to the preſent Earl; the ſecond holds an eminent ſtation at the Scotch bar. There are no ſatisfactory documents of the youthful part of his hiſtory. It is, however, well known that he entered very early in life into the navy, a ſervice for which he had imbibed a ſtrong predilection.

He went to ſea with the late Sir John Lindſay, nephew of the great Earl of Mansfield. He never, it is believed, had the commiſſion of lieutenant, but acted for ſome time in that capacity, by the appointment of his captain. His reaſons for quitting the navy are ſaid to have been the ſlender chances of his promotion; and having only ſerved as a lieutenant by the friendſhip of his commander, he was unwilling, after having been honoured with ſuch a diſtinction, to return to ſea in the inferior capacity of mid-ſhipman.

He entered into the army as an enſign in the Royals, or firſt regiment of foot, in the year 1768, not ſo much from inclination, (as it is ſaid,) as becauſe his father with a ſmall and ſtrictly entailed eſtate, had not the means of aſſiſting him, with convenience, to purſue one of the learned profeſſions. He went with this regiment to Minorca, in which iſland he ſpent three years, and continued in the army about ſix.

During the period he continued in the army, he had acquired conſiderable reputation for the acuteneſs and verſatility of his talents in converſation. Mr. Boſwell, who met him about this time in a mixed company in London, mentions, in his Memoirs of Dr. Johnſon, the delight which the Doctor and himſelf felt from the ability of a gentleman, who was no other than

than Mr. Erſkine, in diſcourſing on ſome temporary topic which, at that time, happened to be an intereſting queſtion of diſpute in the circles of the metropolis.

Whether the conſciouſneſs of theſe powers, or the ſuggeſtions of his friends, or the embarraſſments of a ſcanty income, firſt invited him to make preparations for the ſtudy of the law, it is of no importance to enquire. The reſolution, from whatever cauſe it proceeded, muſt, in a great meaſure, have been ſupported by that internal confidence in his own talents, which is inſeparable from great and elevated minds; from the ſpirit of adventure, which is incidental to genius, which overlooks ſlight obſtacles, and is invincible by ordinary difficulties. There is a faſhion among biographical writers, to diſcover in the perſon, whoſe life they are writing, an innate original prediſpoſition for the peculiar department of ſcience or literaterature in which he has been eminent, forgetting that, in the nature of things, the purſuit muſt be wholly accidental, and that, "in every region of the air," the flight of powerful intellect muſt be equally lofty and vigorous. It has, however, been ſaid, and we have reaſon to believe with truth, that Mr. Erſkine had no merit whatſoever in the extraordinary adventure of embarking in ſo new and arduous a purſuit, but that it was literally and moſt unwillingly forced upon him by the importunities of his mother, the Counteſs of Buchan, after the death of his father; and that the hopes of ſucceeding in it were fortified and kept alive againſt his own prepoſſeſſions, by her counſel and perſuaſions. Although, in the privacy of domeſtic life, the greateſt characters and the brighteſt talents may paſs away without record and remembrance, ſhe was a lady of moſt uncommon acquirements and ſingular penetration. She thought, no doubt, that ſhe perceived the capacity of her ſon, and in the confidence of parental affection, planned out this ſcheme of his future deſtination, while he was abſent in the army at Minorca.

Mr. Erſkine was about twenty-ſix when he commenced his courſe of legal ſtudy. He entered as a Fellow-Commoner of Trinity

Trinity College in Cambridge, in the year 1777; and, at the ſame time, inſerted his name as a ſtudent on the books of Lincoln's Inn. One of his college declamations is ſtill extant, as it was delivered in Trinity College Chapel. The theſis was the revolution of 1688. It diſplays no ordinary powers of language, and it is eaſy to diſcover, in ſome of its paſſages, the elements, as it were, of that forenſic eloquence in which he afterwards acquired ſo unequalled a pre-eminence. It would be too mean a praiſe to ſay that it bears very ſtriking features of ſuperiority over the declamations which are uſually produced on thoſe occaſions. It gained the firſt prize, which he refuſed to accept, not attending Cambridge as a ſtudent, and only declaiming in conformity to the rules of the college. An Ode, written by Mr. Erſkine, about this time, in imitation of Gray's Bard, is worthy of notice as a ſportive production of his fancy: it has been lately publiſhed in the Monthly Magazine. It originated in an occaſion truly humorous. Mr. Erſkine had been diſappointed by his barber, who neglected his uſual attendance upon him, and prevented him from dining in the College-hall. In the moment of diſappointment, hunger and impatience, he is ſuppoſed to have poured forth a malediction againſt the whole race of barbers, with a denunciation, prophetic of a future taſte for cropping and unpowdered hair.

Mr. Erſkine did not enter into the univerſity for any academical purpoſe, but merely to obtain a degree to which he was entitled as the ſon of a nobleman, and by which he ſaved two years and a half in his paſſage to the bar. His education had been completed in Scotland before. His father, one of the moſt accompliſhed men of his time, had uniformly felt an extraordinary ſolicitude as to the education of his children, and actually removed from his family eſtate in Scotland for the purpoſe of reſiding at St. Andrew's, where he continued many years. During this time he procured for them a private tutor, one of the moſt elegant ſcholars of that part of the iſland, to aſſiſt their

ſtudies

ſtudies at the School and Univerſity. Mr. Erſkine always purſued the ſtudy of the Belles Lettres with unremitted ardour, and had the advantage of imbibing from the moſt eminent perſons of the day, that various and extended knowledge, which can never be derived from books, or ſolitary application. In order to acquire a neceſſary knowledge of the mechanical parts of his future profeſſion, he was perſuaded by the judicious counſels of his friends, to enter as a pupil into the office of Mr. Buller, then an eminent ſpecial pleader at the bar, and ſince promoted to a diſtinguiſhed ſtation on the Bench.

It need not be diſſembled that, during this period of his life, Mr. Erſkine was ſubject to the neceſſities of a very limited income. He had been already married about four years, and was obliged to adhere to a moſt rigid frugality of expenditure. Of theſe circumſtances of his hiſtory, many of the particulars have, with great ingenuouſneſs, been mentioned to his friends by Mr. Erſkine himſelf.

In reviewing the difficulties he had encountered, and in contraſting them with the brilliant proſperity of his late years, he muſt now feel a peculiar gratification; becauſe by an involuntary impulſe he muſt have attributed his extraordinary elevation to the endowments allotted to him by nature, rather than to the caprice or partiality of fortune. The part ſuſtained by Mrs. Erſkine, before the cloud that overhung their firſt entrance into life was diſſipated, is highly honourable to her feelings; ſhe accompanied him to Minorca, followed his fortunes with the moſt cheerful conſtancy, and, while he was engaged in the purſuits of a moſt laborious profeſſion, never ſuffered any pleaſure or amuſement to interrupt her in the aſſiduous duties of domeſtic life.

While he remained in the office of Mr. Buller he purſued the buſineſs of the deſk with unremitted activity and ardor; and, on Mr. Buller's promotion, went into the office of Mr. Wood, where he continued a year after he had been in conſiderable

ſiderable buſineſs at the bar. Special pleading, though not unfrequently conſidered as the mechanical part of the profeſſion, has lately arrived at a higher dignity than lawyers of former times were willing to allow it. The abſolute and hourly neceſſity of it is now recognized by every one who is converſant with the buſineſs of our courts of juſtice. It conſiſts in a ſort of analytical correctneſs, and its higheſt utility is derived from the habits of artificial acuteneſs, which it imparts, and the nice and ſkilful ſubleties, on which it is perpetually occupied. Although Mr. Erſkine never practiſed as a profeſſed ſpecial pleader, the notion of his being ignorant of that branch of the legal ſcience, is founded in the groſſeſt miſrepreſentation. No one underſtands the principles of that ſcience more correctly; nor is any one more dexterous in the ſeaſonable application of them, as a ſpecies of *law logic*; a phraſe, by which the late Sir William Jones accurately defined the art of the Special Pleader.

In what manner our advocate cultivated the acts of popular declamation, does not clearly appear. It has been ſaid, that he was an aſſiduous attendant at Coach-maker's Hall, where a debating club of ſome eſtimation was at that time held. But the ſtyle of Mr. Erſkine's oratory bears internal teſtimony againſt this aſſertion. The eloquence that is cultivated in theſe ſocieties is altogether of a nature, remote from the uſes of the bar, or the ſenate. The debates of the evening are for the moſt part conducted by a ſet of ſpeakers, or rather ſpouters, who vociferate a collection of crude declamatory ſentences to a tumultuous audience, which, taking no cognizance of felicities or ſtyle of diction, beſtows its applauſe on the orator, who makes the greateſt noiſe, and acts his part with the greateſt vehemence. Such are not the academic ſhades, in which Engliſh eloquence is nurtured. Perhaps the moſt diſtinguiſhed of our orators have acquired their perfection in public ſpeaking, more by ſilent meditation and ſtudy, than by declaiming in public. Unqueſtionably he can never

never be a good ſpeaker, who has been habituated to that noiſy rant, of which the greateſt praiſe is rapidity of utterance, and by which the rules and harmony of the language are expoſed to perpetual violence, and perverſion.

He had now completed the probationary period allotted to the attendance in the inns at court; and was called to the bar in the Trinity Term 1778. Mr. Erſkine is a ſingular exception to the tardy advancement of profeſſional merit at the Engliſh bar. It is not worth enquiring, how long he continued a mute auditor in the back benches of the court, amongſt the croud of young men, who may be, not unaptly, compared to the ghoſts that linger on the banks of the Styx for a paſſage over the lake; but, by a ſingular partiality of fortune, he was not tortured by the "hope deferred," and the ſickening expectation of a brief in Weſtminſter-Hall, which ſo many men of promiſing talents are doomed to undergo: an opportunity was almoſt immediately afforded him of diſtinguiſhing himſelf in Weſtminſter-Hall. Captain Baillie, who had been removed from the government in Greenwich Hoſpital by Lord Sandwich, then Firſt Lord of the Admiralty, and one of the Governors of Greenwich Hoſpital, had been charged with having publiſhed a libel againſt that nobleman, and the Attorney-General was inſtructed to move for leave to file a criminal information againſt him; this was the occaſion of Mr. Erſkine's firſt ſpeech in court. In oppoſing the motion of the Attorney-General, an opportunity preſented itſelf to him of entering into the merits of the caſe in behalf of Captain Baillie. He expatiated upon the ſervices which had been rendered by his client, on the firmneſs with which he reſiſted the intrigue and artifice to which he attributed the proſecution ſet on foot againſt him.

In the courſe of this ſpeech, he attacked the noble earl in a tone of ſarcaſtic and indignant invective. Lord Mansfield interrupted him more than once, but the advocate did not

abate of the ſeverity of his animadverſions.—It was at that time no common ſpectacle, to obſerve a man, ſo little known to the court and the bar, commenting, with aſperity of remark, on the conduct of a powerful ſtateſman who held an elevated poſt in the adminiſtration, and diſtinguiſhing himſelf by a ſpecies of confidence not uſually felt in early efforts of public ſpeaking, under circumſtances that rendered it more prudent to abſtain from perſonal ſeverity, and to conciliate the court he was addreſſing. Theſe ſtrictures on Lord Sandwich are unqueſtionably ſevere; but, if any faith is to be had in the teſtimony of his cotemporaries, both in office and in oppoſition, they are not unfounded. Colonel Luttrell, ſpeaking of him in the Houſe of Commons, obſerved of him, with a pointed eloquence, that *there is in his conduct ſuch a ſanctimonious compoſure of guilt, that the rarity and perfection of the vice almoſt conſtituted it a virtue.*"

This was the firſt trial of his talents at the bar, having been called only in Trinity Term, and having been employed for Captain Baillie in the Michaelmas Term following. He is ſaid to have been indebted for this opportunity to no interference, recommendation, or connexion. His acquaintance with Captain Baillie originated from his having accidently met him at the table of a common friend. Almoſt immediately afterwards Mr. Erſkine appeared at the bar of the Houſe of Commons, as Counſel for Mr. Carnan, the bookſeller, againſt a Bill introduced by Lord North, then Prime Miniſter, to re-veſt in the Univerſities the monopoly in Almanacks, which Mr. Carnan had ſucceeded in aboliſhing by legal judgments, and he had the good fortune to place the noble lord in a conſiderable minority upon a diviſion.

To the reputation which theſe ſpeeches conferred upon him, it has been ſaid, that he refers the ſubſequent ſucceſs he has experienced in his profeſſion, and that, as he left the

the court upon that occaſion, nearly thirty briefs were offered to him by the attornies who were preſent. He was now ſurrounded by clients, and occupied by buſineſs. Of the various caſes in which he was employed, it would be abſurd to expect any mention, as they conſiſted only of the ordinary and daily tranſactions of the Term and the Sittings.

The public feelings were now altogether occupied by the intereſting trial of Admiral Keppel. Mr. Erſkine was retained as Counſel for the Admiral: a circumſtance that was owing to the ignorance which the Counſel, Mr. Dunning and Mr. Lee (who were originally engaged,) diſplayed of the ſea phraſes, without ſome knowledge of which the caſe was in a great meaſure unintelligible. Mr. Dunning recommended Mr. Erſkine as qualified for the duty, having been made acquainted with the manner in which he had paſſed the former part of his life.

The duty of a Counſel before a Court Martial is very limited by the rules and uſages of the court: he is not permitted to put any queſtion to the witneſſes; but he may ſuggeſt to his client ſuch as occur to him as neceſſary to be aſked; nor is he ſuffered to addreſs the court; and almoſt the only aſſiſtance he can render is in the arrangement of his defence, and the communication of ſuch remarks on the evidence as are moſt likely to be preſent only to the minds of thoſe who are habituated to the rules of teſtimony in courts of juſtice. This ſervice was moſt effectually and ably rendered by Mr. Erſkine. Having drawn his defence, Mr. Erſkine perſonally examined all the Admirals and Captains of the fleet, and ſatisfied himſelf that he could ſubſtantiate the innocence of his client, before the ſpeech which he had written for him was read. For his exertions on this memorable occaſion, Mr. Erſkine received a thouſand guineas. It was the proudeſt office of his life to have ſaved a good and honourable man from diſgrace, and even amidſt the ſplendors of

his ſucceeding fortunes, Mr. Erſkine ought to look back on this event with renewed ſatisfaction and triumph.

He was now in poſſeſſion of the beſt *ſecond buſineſs* in the King's Bench.—By the phraſe *ſecond buſineſs* is meant that ſort of buſines in which the lead is not given to the Counſel who are not yet arrived at the dignity of a ſilk gown, and of a ſeat within the bar of the court: but an event took place which called his talents into activity on a moſt memorable occaſion. The riots of 1780 are alluded to. Every one knows the univerſal conſternation, which at that time agitated the kingdom; when the ſecurity of the nation was threatened in the deſtruction of the capital. After the extinction of theſe tumults, the vigilance of the magiſtracy was exerciſed in directing the inſulted juſtice of the country againſt the actors in that dreadful conflagration. The participation of theſe outrages attributed to Lord George Gordon is well known. On his guilt, or innocence, it would be indecorous in us to pronounce an opinion. There is a veneration always due to the verdict of juries; and it would be a ſort of political blaſphemy to call the rectitude of their deciſion into ſuſpicion.

Mr. Erſkine, however, was retained Counſel for his lordſhip, in conjunction with Mr. Kenyon, now the learned chief of the King's Bench. The duty which more immediately devolved on Mr. Erſkine, was that of replying to the evidence; a duty, which he ſuſtained with infinite judgment and ſpirit. His ſpeech on this trial abounds with many of the moſt finiſhed graces of rhetoric. It is rapid and impetuous; and altogether in that ſtyle and character which are moſt impreſſive in judicial aſſemblies. The exordium is after the artificial method of the ancients, who never begin an oration without an appeal to the tribunal they are addreſſing, upon the embarraſſments and peril of the functions they have undertaken. "I ſtand," ſaid Mr. Erſkine, "much more in need of compaſſion, than the noble priſoner,

priſoner. He reſts ſecure in conſcious innocence, and in the aſſurance that his innocence will ſuffer no danger in your hands. But I appear before you a young and inexperienced advocate; little converſant with courts of criminal juſtice; and ſinking under the dreadful conſciouſneſs of that inexperience."

There is, perhaps, no department of his profeſſion, in which our advocate has reached higher excellence, than in his obſervations on evidence. The defence of Lord George Gordon required the exerciſe of theſe powers to their ampleſt extent; as the caſe on the part of the crown was ſupported by a variety of witneſſes. Having delivered to the jury the doctrine of High Treaſon, as it had been eſtabliſhed by the celebrated act of Edward the Third, and as it was expounded in the beſt authorities, he made a moſt dexterous application of thoſe rules, to the evidence, which had been adduced. They who ſtudy this ſpeech will obſerve, with emotions of admiration, the ſubtleties with which he abates the force of the teſtimony he is encountering, and the artful eloquence with which he expoſes its defects, and its contradictions. "I ſay, *by God*, that man is a ruffian, who, on ſuch evidence as this, ſeeks to eſtabliſh a concluſion of guilt," he exclaimed, as he was finiſhing this topic of his defence. An impaſſioned mode of exclamation, which, though it may find ſome apology in the perpetual example of Cicero, is not ſuited to the chaſtity and ſoberneſs of Engliſh eloquence. Of this ſpeech, the concluding ſentence is truly pathetic. We ſcarcely heſitate to pronounce this to be the beſt effort of Mr. Erſkine's talents: it does not, indeed, diſplay the minute beauties of cultivated diction, nor thoſe grave remarks of moral wiſdom with which his later ſpeeches, in imitation of Mr. Burke, are pregnant; but, conſidered in reference to the occaſion on which it was delivered, it is a moſt aſtoniſhing effort of vigorous and poliſhed intellect.

In

In the month of May, 1783, Mr. Erſkine received the honour of a ſilk gown: his Majeſty's Letters of Precedency being conferred upon him, as it has been ſaid, at the perſonal ſuggeſtion of the venerable Lord Mansfield. To this diſtinction, his portion of the buſineſs, and his acknowledged talents, gave him an unanſwerable pretenſion. Mr. Erſkine is a remarkable inſtance of a rapid advancement to this honour, not having been at the bar quite five years. His buſineſs was now conſiderably augmented, and he ſucceeded to that place which had been ſo long occupied by Mr. Dunning.

It would be impoſſible, with the ſpace allotted to this article, to give an account of the cauſes pleaded by Mr. Erſkine, his exertions being, for the moſt part, occupied in the tranſactions of daily occurrence which are diſcuſſed in our courts of juſtice: of theſe there are no other documents than the journals of the day, from which fidelity of ſtatement cannot be expected.

In no part of his profeſſional engagements has Mr. Erſkine deſerved or acquired an higher reputation than in the mode of conducting trials for *crim. con.* It has frequently fallen to his lot to be concerned in behalf of plaintiffs in theſe actions, a circumſtance which has given him conſiderable advantage; for, beſides the attention which is ſure to be afforded to accuſing eloquence, the ſympathies of mankind are naturally in alliance with him who hurls his invective againſt the diſturber of the genial bed, and the invader of conjugal happineſs; and alarming as the frequency of theſe cauſes may be, yet the torrent of public licentiouſneſs has received no ſlight impediment from the indignant feelings of the world, and the exemplary damages awarded by juries. To this honourable and uſeful end, the eloquence of the advocate is ſubſervient. He calls into activity the ſlumbering emotions, and the virtuous ſenſibilities of men, into a ſort of league againſt the crime he denounces. Mr. Erſkine's

Erſkine's ſpeech, in the memorable cauſe of Sykes and Parſlow, is ſtill remembered, by thoſe who heard it, as an uncommon effort of rhetorical ability.

Mr. Erſkine has alſo been concerned in ſome of the remarkable cauſes for *crim. con.* on behalf of defendants. His exertions are well known in the memorable caſes of Baldwin againſt Oliver, tried at York, and the recent one of Sir Henry Vane Tempeſt, in both which caſes there were but one ſhilling damages; the huſbands having let looſe their wives upon the world, and, in ſome reſpect, being acceſſary to their proſtitution. And, on theſe occaſions, Mr. Erſkine has done equal ſervice to the cauſe of morality and virtue, by pointing out the infamy of unyoking the female paſſions from the reſtraints of conjugal protection and domeſtic attachments. His ſpeech in Howard againſt Bingham will be long remembered at the bar: it contains a moſt affecting apology for the lady, who was married againſt her conſent, while her affections had been beſtowed upon another: it abounds with pathetic remarks on the harſhneſs and cruelty of chaining down to a man, whom ſhe hated, a young and beautiful woman, and, for purpoſes of family arrangement or ambition, dedicating her life to a reluctant diſcharge of duties, the obligations of which ſhe could not perceive, and the conditions of which ſhe could not ſuſtain. In this ſpeech there is no apology for vice, but an excuſe for human frailty, which is pleaded with great warmth and great eloquence.

From the infinite variety of theſe cauſes in which he has been concerned, it is not extraordinary that he ſhould have acquired too artificial and common-place a method of putting his topics: but it cannot juſtly be reproached to Mr. Erſkine, that the perpetual reiteration of theſe tranſactions ſhould, in a great meaſure, have exhauſted his ſtore of expreſſion and of thinking on theſe ſubjects: this is not poverty, but exhauſted wealth,—the indigence ariſing from too

too laviſh a prodigality of his opulence. He who looks for a perfect model of the ſtyle of Mr. Erſkine, muſt examine his ſpeech on the trial of Stockdale. When the charges againſt Mr. Haſtings were publiſhed by the Houſe of Commons, a Mr. Logie, a Clergyman of the church of Scotland, and a friend of the Governor-General, wrote a tract, in which thoſe charges were inveſtigated with ſome acrimony, but with conſiderable warmth and vigor: the pamphlet being conſidered as libellous, by a reſolution of the Houſe, a criminal information was filed by the Attorney-General againſt Stockdale, who was the publiſher, for a libel.

In the courſe of his defence of Stockdale, Mr. Erſkine urged many collateral topics in favour of Mr. Haſtings, in a ſtyle of fervid and ornamented eloquence. Adverting to the charges preferred againſt Mr. Haſtings, he expatiates on the obvious abſurdity exhibited by a power, guilty of rapine and oppreſſion, in preſuming to ſit in judgment upon thoſe to whom its authority had been delegated, and by whom its own tyranny had been exerciſed. He dwells upon the ridiculous conduct of a nation, proceeding in its iniquitous career of plunder and rapacity, in ſaying to the ſubordinate inſtruments of its uſurpation, "Thus far ſhalt thou go, and no farther;" that a great empire was to be preſerved by Mr. Haſtings, and that it was only to be preſerved by the means which were uſed to acquire it; by acts of rigorous and ſevere authority. He then takes notice of the violation of human happineſs, for which the nation was reſponſible, in the exerciſe of her eaſtern dominion; concluding the topic in the following ſtrain of energetic oratory:—

"Gentlemen; you are touched by this way of conſidering the ſubject; and I can account for it. I have been talking of man, and his nature, not as they are ſeen through the cold medium of books, but as I have myſelf

ſelf ſeen them in climes reluctantly ſubmitting to our authority. I have ſeen an indignant ſavage chief ſurrounded by his ſubjects, and holding in his hand a bundle of ſticks, the notes of his unlettered eloquence. 'Who is it,' ſaid the jealous ruler of a foreſt, encroached upon by the reſtleſs foot of Engliſh adventure, 'Who is it that cauſes theſe mountains to lift up their lofty head? Who raiſes the winds of the winter, and calms them again in the ſummer? The ſame Being who gave to you a country on your ſide of the water, and ours to us on this.'

This is, perhaps, a ſpecies of rhetorical ornament more figurative than our national eloquence, which does not tolerate the boldneſs of the proſopopeia, ſeems ſtrictly to admit; yet it is impoſſible not to be ſtruck with the ſublimity of the paſſage. The exertions of Mr. Erſkine procured the acquittal of the defendant.

Of this ſpeech the faults and the beauties are equally obvious: it is too elaborate and artificial in its texture; its ſentences are too much burdened with epithets, and it wants the charm and the ornament of ſimplicity: under ſome reſtrictions, it may be ſaid *abundat dulcibus vitiis.* In the beginning of this harangue, he has diſplayed a regard for his own profeſſion truly honourable to his feelings; and it is not the leaſt praiſe which is due to his profeſſional character, that he is never known to omit any opportunity of paying a tribute of reſpect to the bar, of which he is the moſt ſhining ornament and example.

Mr. Erſkine was elected member of parliament for Portſmouth in the year 1783; an honour which he probably derived from the reputation he had acquired at the Court Martial which ſat there on the trial of Admiral Keppel. His political character may be extracted from his ſpeeches in courts of juſtice, as well as from his uniform conduct in parliament: whether the conſiſtency of his courſe is to be attributed to a ſingular felicity of fortune,

or

or to the demands which his buſineſs has at all times had on his time and his exertions, and which rendered his political ambition ſubordinate to his love of profeſſional fame; yet the praiſe of inflexible patriotiſm, and a rigid adherence to the men and meaſures he approved, will hardly be diſputed to him.

From no tranſaction of his life is a greater and more permanent reputation derived by Mr. Erſkine than in his noble ſtruggles in defence of the trial by jury. The law, as it is now expounded by Mr. Fox's Bill, which Mr. Erſkine paved the way for in the courts, and ſeconded and ſupported in parliament, is a monument erected to his patriotiſm and ability. A ſtrange paradox had crept into the judicial practice, which reſtricting the power of juries in queſtions of libel to the arbitrary interpretation of the judges, reduced it in fact to a ſhadow and a nullity. A rule derived from the venal opinion and practice of bad judges in bad times, was adopted by honeſt and upright men from real conviction, and a ſenſe of duty in adhering to what they conceived to be precedent and authority. The queſtion had already been frequently agitated in trials for libel. It had exerciſed the pen and tongues of the ableſt lawyers, and had been diſcuſſed in the luminous and elegant letters of Junius. It was reſerved for Mr. Erſkine, in his celebrated argument in ſupport of a rule for a new trial in the Dean of St. Aſaph's caſe, to concentrate all the doctrines, and to combine all the reaſonings, which lay ſcattered over ſo many volumes of legal learning. In this elaborate argument, he moſt triumphantly eſtabliſhed his poſition; that juries were judges of the law as well as the fact. Upon the principles laid down in this ſpeech, Mr. Fox framed his immortal Bill; which, though it received the moſt acrimonious oppoſition, in both houſes of legiſlature, has at length happily reſcued the queſtion from controverſy, by the eſtabliſhment of a criterion, to which

which the rights and duties of juries may at all times be referred.

On the original trial of the Dean of St. Aſaph, at Shrewſbury, where Mr. Erſkine appeared as counſel for the Dean, a ſpecial verdict was delivered by the Jury, finding the defendant guilty only of *the fact of publiſhing*. Mr. Juſtice Buller, who preſided at the trial, deſired them to reconſider it, as it could not be recorded in the terms in which they expreſſed it. On this occaſion, Mr. Erſkine inſiſted that the verdict ſhould be recorded, as it was found. This was reſiſted by the Judge, who meeting with unuſual oppoſition from the Counſel, peremptorily told him to ſit down, or he ſhould compel him. "My Lord," returned Mr. Erſkine, "I will not ſit down—Your Lordſhip may do your duty, but I will do mine." The Judge was ſilent. It would have been more conſiſtent with the dignity of the Court, if the threat, which he did not feel himſelf prepared to execute, had not eſcaped the learned Judge. Mr. Erſkine concludes his argument in this caſe, with this ſentiment:

"It was the firſt command, and counſel of my youth, always to do what my conſcience told me to be my duty; and to leave the conſequences to God. I ſhall carry with me the memory, and I truſt the practice, of this parental leſſon to the grave. I have hitherto followed it, and have no reaſon to complain, that my obedience to it has been even a temporal ſacrifice, I have found, on the contrary, the road to proſperity and wealth; and I ſhall point it out as ſuch to my children."

The independence exhibited by our advocate on every occaſion, threw upon him the defences of perſons proſecuted for ſedition or libel by Government. No reaſoning can be more uncandid, than to infer that his political opinions had any real ſympathy with thoſe entertained by the numerous race of libellers, who reſorted to him for legal protection. They know but little of the duty of a Counſel who reaſon in this

this manner. As a ſervant of the public, he is bound by the obligations of profeſſional honor, to afford his aſſiſtance to thoſe who engage him in their behalf. It is the privilege of the accuſed, in a free country to be heard impartially and equitably, and to be tried by the fair interpretation of the laws to which he is amenable. They who imagine that the advocate identifies with his own, the opinions and acts of the party he is repreſenting, are carried away by erroneous reaſonings, tending, in their conſequences, to deprive the innocent of protection, by denying a fair meaſure of juſtice to the guilty. This ſcene of duty Mr. Erſkine has carried to an honorable extreme, not having been deterred from it by the malignant repreſentations of party calumny, nor tempted to abandon it by the hopes and promiſes of profeſſional promotion. His defence, however, of Paine, occaſioned his ſudden diſmiſſion from the office he held as Attorney General to the Prince of Wales. It is unneceſſary to inquire who were the adviſers at Carlton-Houſe upon this occaſion; it is ſufficient to ſay, that the meaſure was dictated by minds of too weak a texture, and too contracted a ſize, to comprehend either the duties of an Engliſh advocate, or the rights of an Engliſh ſubject. In juſtice, however, to the Prince, there is no reaſon to believe that he approved of the meaſure, or willingly acceded to it. In thoſe moments of political phrenzy, it was forced upon him by thoſe who could not feel the enlarged and liberal ſentiments of that great perſonage on ſuch an occaſion, and who were not aſhamed to make uſe of the moſt unworthy inſtruments of political artifice and intrigue, having no other political ſcience than that of purſuing objects moſt familiar to their minds, by means moſt adapted to their underſtandings.

The moſt brilliant event in Mr. Erſkine's profeſſional life was the part caſt upon him in conjunction with Mr. Gibbs, in the State Trials, in the year 1794. The accuſed gentlemen looked to Mr. Erſkine as their inſtrument of ſafety. He undertook

dertook their ſeveral defences with an enthuſiaſm that rendered him inſenſible to the fatigues of a long and continued exertion: nothing was omitted that could elucidate their innocence; nothing overlooked that tended to weaken the force of the caſe ſtated againſt them by the Crown Lawyers. Theſe trials laſted ſeveral days: the public expectation hung upon them with moſt inconceivable anxiety, and the feelings of good men and virtuous citizens accompanied the accuſed to their trial, with hopes, not unmixed with apprehenſion, that, from their acquittal, the liberty of the ſubject would receive additional ſtrength and confirmation.

One of Mr. Erſkine's lateſt ſpeeches was upon the proſecution of Paine's Age of Reaſon. It is a ſignal bleſſing, in an age when the ſentiment is openly undervalued and deſpiſed, that men of great talents ſhould diſplay a lively ſenſibility to the obligations of religion, as the beſt auxiliant of morality and conſcience, and that they ſhould employ their eloquence and their reaſon, the beſt gift of God to man, in impreſſing on the general mind the conſolations derived from the truths it has imparted.

The character of this great man is reflected by the actions of a life ſpent in the active exerciſe of an honourable occupation. His various talents, even by the violence of party, have not once been queſtioned. To ſay that he is unequal in his intellectual efforts, is to ſay little more than may be affirmed of the greateſt men who have flouriſhed in eloquence, in poetry, or philoſophy. Let him, however, who deſires to frame a correct eſtimate of his powers, attend the Court in which they are hourly exerciſed: let him not build his judgment on an inſulated ſpecimen; let him purſue his mind, as it were, to the context, and combine his diverſified merits in the endleſs variety of cauſes on which he is occupied: let him remark the facility of tranſition with which he glides to the ſucceſſive tranſactions of the day; the correctneſs with which he narrates and details their circumſtances,

ſtances, and the unceaſing pliability of his mind on ſubjects of ſuch various and diſcordant natures.

It would be gratifying to exhibit the domeſtic character of Mr. Erſkine. He has four ſons and four daughters; and, in the boſom of his family, he finds a ſoothing relaxation from the cares and agitations of his public engagements. Whatever time he can ſnatch from the accumulated maſs of labours with which he is ſurrounded, is devoted to ſocial intercourſes with his friends and his family. No man is endued with a greater ſhare of conſtitutional vivacity*: he is ſportive, and almoſt puerile in his relaxations; a circumſtance not unfrequently found in the hiſtory of men of genius.

Upon theſe topics we cannot enlarge. In this memoir an attempt has been made to exhibit his public character with fairneſs and impartiality. Of his private virtues, it would be indecorous to make any enumeration. *Integritatem atque abſtinentiam in tanto viro referre iujuria virtutum fuerit.* Tacit. in vit. Agric.

C. H.

* We never have ſeen a portrait which does juſtice to the expreſſion and vivacity of his countenance. We do not think the artiſt who drew the ſketch in our frontiſpiece has been more happy than his predeceſſors.

THE

THE REV. DR. PARR.

OF this profound ſcholar and upright man, we wiſh our plan would admit of a more ample account; as well to gratify our own feelings, by paying the tribute due to his extraordinary merits; as to indulge the curioſity of our readers, ſo juſtly excited by the celebrity of his name. But where much is ſaid in commendation of a living character, a great deal will be regarded as adulation, or aſcribed to the partiality of friendſhip; we ſhall, therefore, be cautious that we do not expoſe ourſelves, to the ſuſpicion of having wandered from the truth.

Doctor Parr was born at Harrow on the Hill on the 26th of January 1746-7. His father was a ſurgeon and apothecary of conſiderable practice. He received his education chiefly under Dr. Thackeray, and partly under Dr. Robert Sumner, at the ſchool which has ſo highly diſtinguiſhed the place of his birth. He was head boy at fourteen, and contemporary there with Mr. Sheridan, and with the late Sir William Jones.

From Harrow the doctor was ſent to Emanuel College, Cambridge, where his genius and learning ſoon became eminently conſpicuous, and procured him the notice and friendſhip of the firſt literary characters.

The activity of his mind was but ill calculated for the indolence of an academical life, and accordingly, as ſoon as it was poſſible for him to emerge from it, and before he was twenty years old, he became head-aſſiſtant in the ſchool at which he had been brought up. He continued in that capacity, governing boys with whom he had played, till the death of Dr. Sumner. Having been a candidate to ſucceed him,

him, but rejected on account of his youth, the doctor removed from Harrow, and opened a ſchool at Stanmore. His diſappointment at the former place ſerved to manifeſt the attachment of his boys, who, we have heard, broke out in rebellion on the occaſion. During his ſtay at Harrow, he was ordained by Dr. Terrick, Biſhop of London in the year 1769. At Stanmore, among many others, Mr. Maurice, the learned author of "Indian Antiquities," and of a "Hiſtory of Hindoſtan," became his pupil.

From Stanmore the doctor, in the ſpring of 1777, removed to Colcheſter, on being appointed maſter of an endowed ſchool in that town; he there cultivated the friendſhip of Dr. Forſter, and Mr. Twining, and ſpent his leiſure in the moſt agreeable ſociety. Thence, in the year 1778, he departed, to ſuperintend a ſimilar inſtitution in the city of Norwich.

During his reſidence at Norwich in the year 1781, the doctor was admitted to his degree of LL. D. at Cambridge. His theſis was much applauded, and great importunity was uſed to prevail on him to publiſh it.

Hitherto he had lived unknown to the world as a writer, but the public now began to reap the fruits of his ſtudies. being requeſted to preach a ſermon for the benefit of the charity ſchools, the force of his eloquence, and the beauty of his compoſition aſtoniſhed and enraptured the whole congregation. Application was made to him a ſecond time, on the like occaſion; and again he lent his aid. The two diſcourſes were afterwards publiſhed.

While the doctor reſided at Norwich, the Rev. Edward Maltby, now Chaplain to the Biſhop of Lincoln, and Rector of Bugden, ranked among the number of his pupils. Of that gentleman he has never been heard to ſpeak, but in terms of the warmeſt affection and the higheſt applauſe. In the year 1783, Dr. Lowth evinced his wonted diſcernment of merit, and in token of his eſteem promoted Dr. Parr to a prebend in the cathedral church of St. Paul.

In

In the year 1785, Lady Trafford preſented him to the perpetual curacy of Hatton, a village in the neighbourhood of Warwick. Having reſigned his ſchool at Norwich, and likewiſe the living of Aſterby in Lincolnſhire, he removed, early in 1786, from the fatigue and hurry of public teaching, to reſide at his parſonage in Warwickſhire. Here the doctor, after enlarging and otherwiſe conſiderably improving the houſe, devoted his leiſure to the private tuition of ſeven pupils, whoſe minds he enriched with a taſte for moral purity, no leſs than for literary excellence. His treatment of them was, in all reſpects, perfectly paternal: and an attachment as truly filial has been manifeſted by moſt of them towards him.

In the year 1787, the doctor aſſiſted the late Mr. Henry Homer, formerly of Emanuel College, Cambridge, in preparing a new edition of the three books of Bellendenus "de Statu;" to which he wrote the celebrated preface: which is, perhaps, the fineſt ſpecimen of modern Latinity extant in the whole learned world. To each book the doctor likewiſe wrote an appropriate dedication in his own inimitable manner—remarkable for ſtrength of thought and felicity of expreſſion. Of his engagement with Mr. Homer, and of the riſe and progreſs of that work, he himſelf has given a minute and intereſting detail in his laſt publication *. To that tract we beg leave to refer the curious reader for further and full information concerning a work, which, for keenneſs of ſatire, purity of ſtyle, and extent of erudition, has ſeldom been equalled, and never ſurpaſſed.

In 1789 appeared tracts by Warburton and a Warburtonian, "not admitted into the collection of their reſpective works." Of thoſe Dr. Parr was the editor, and to the two tracts of a Warburtonian at the end of that ſingular volume, he wrote the dedication and preface.

* Reply to Dr. Combe's "Statement of Facts," &c. &c. &c.

Never, perhaps, was the literary world more ſurpriſed and delighted, than by the wit, eloquence and genius that ſhone forth in thoſe very wonderful compoſitions: of which it is no exaggerated praiſe to ſay, that they unite the elegance of Addiſon, and the accuracy of Swift, to the gravity of Johnſon, and the ſublimity of Burke;—that they at once amuſe, inſtruct, and admoniſh;—and that benevolence was never more conſpicuous, nor candour more complete than is diſplayed by the writer, in all that concerns Jorten, Leland, and even Warburton.

Of this performance much has been whiſpered by the ignorant, the invidious, and the prejudiced. Let the doctor ſpeak for himſelf *. As ſome of the "parties are dead, and as the controverſies in which they were engaged have ceaſed to agitate the paſſions of men, this republication has not the ſmalleſt tendency to ſow ſtrife among ſcholars." Nor has any "ſtrife" ſince been "ſown," though ten years have ſince elapſed, and many ſcholars who revere the memory of Warburton, and love the virtues of Dr. Hurd, ſtill ſurvive.

On the occaſion of the undertaking, let us again hear the learned editor. †"The biſhop of Worceſter has not deigned to give a place to the following tracts, in his late magnificent edition of Warburton's Works. By re-pubpubliſhing them, however, without the permiſſion of the R. R. Editor, I mean not to arraign his taſte or his prudence.—But among readers of diſcernment, the character of Biſhop Warburton can ſuffer no diminution of its luſtre from this re-publication. They who are curious in collecting books, muſt certainly be anxious to poſſeſs *all* the writings of that eminent Prelate. They who mark with

* Tracts by Warburton, &c. P. 179.
† Preface to Warburton's two Tracts, at the beginning of the volume.

philoſophic

philoſophic preciſion the progreſs of the human underſtanding, will look up to Warburton with greater reverence and aſtoniſhment when "they compare the better productions of his pen with the worſe." The ſame obſervations are applicable to the Tracts by the Biſhop of Worceſter. Theſe Tracts had firſt been publiſhed, and afterwards denied a place among his acknowledged works. He had an undoubted right to ſuppreſs them. Another had an equal right to reſtore them to the world. Literature could ſuſtain no injury but from their concealment.

We will admit that ſubjects were revived, which that learned prelate might wiſh to have forgotten. In him, it had been, perhaps, indecorous, and certainly imprudent, to give them further circulation. But a writer not in his confidence, and even unacquainted with their author, had no ſuſpicion to encounter by his interference, and no reproaches to dread from tranſgreſſions not his own.

If, however, one ſpark of animoſity has been kindled between thoſe two ſagacious critics, and eminent divines, we know that it has long been extinguiſhed; and we have reaſon to believe that they now "view each other with nobler feelings than thoſe of forgiveneſs.*"

Early in the following year, Dr. Parr was introduced to Dr. Prieſtley.

"My firſt interview with him †," ſays Dr. Parr, "was at the houſe of a very ſenſible and moſt excellent man."—"Early in 1790, I reviſited Dr. Prieſtley and his friends, in their endeavours to procure a repeal of the Teſt-Act. About a month or two after, Dr. Prieſtley and I met; and here begins a black catalogue of crimes, which have been long enveloped in darkneſs, but which I am now audacious enough to plant before legions of ſenſeleſs and mercileſs calumniators in open day.

"I knew that Dr. John Leland, of Ireland, lived upon terms of intimacy with many Engliſh prelates—that Archbiſhop Secker preſerved his

* Tracts by Warburton, &c.
† Sequel, &c. P. 20. Second Edition.

acquaintance with Dr. Chandler—that Dr. Johnſon admitted the viſits of Dr. Fordyce, and did not decline the company of Dr. Mayo. When I myſelf too lived at Norwich, Mr. Bourne, a diſſenting teacher, not leſs eminent for the boldneſs of his opinions, than for the depth of his reſearches, was very well received by the worthieſt and moſt reſpectable clergymen of that city. I was, therefore, and now am at a loſs to ſee why a clergyman of the church of England ſhould ſhun the preſence of a diſſenting miniſter merely becauſe they do not agree on doctrinal points, which have long divided the Chriſtain world; and, indeed, I have always found, that when men of ſenſe and virtue mingled in converſation, the harſh and confuſed ſuſpicions which they may have entertained of each other give way to more juſt and more candid ſentiments."

Indeed it ſeems ſtrange to us, that two men ſo active, ſo ingenious, and ſo learned, who, in ſpite of their differences in religion, poſſeſſed much moral virtue, philoſophic knowledge, and literary attainment in common, ſhould have lived five years within ſeventeen miles of each other without having met. A very few viſits had been exchanged between them before an event took place, which never can be mentioned without diſgrace to the national character.

"Animus meminiſſe horret, luctuque refugit."

The riots in Birmingham, which happened in 1791, will be remembered by the lateſt poſterity not more for the numerous and diffuſive miſchiefs they occaſioned, than for the meanneſs of ſpirit, blindneſs of rage, and intemperance of zeal, with which the mob attacked the peaceful abode of Dr. Prieſtley, and deſtroyed his library and philoſophical apparatus. Europe has, in conſequence, received that gentleman's farewel, and ſuffered a diminution of its philoſophical importance.

Not content with wreaking their vengeance on Dr. Prieſtley, by burning his houſe, and plundering it of all that was moſt valuable to him, they reſolved to extend their deſolating ravages, and murderous deſigns, to every perſon in any degree connected with him. Hearing that Dr. Parr had

had been ſeen at the houſe of Dr. Prieſtley ſome months before, and wiſely concluding that nothing leſs than a complete coincidence of opinion could have brought him thither, they threaten to bend their courſe towards Hatton, and burn his houſe and library alſo! Happily an end was put to theſe horrible proceedings ere the mob could accompliſh their purpoſe, but not till the doctor had experienced the ſevereſt pangs for the fate of his family, and anticipated the irreparable loſs of his books and manuſcripts *.

It is well known that the pretence for theſe outrages, was a meeting held by the Diſſenters on the 14th of July, 1791, in celebration of the French Revolution. In the Spring of the year 1792, it was pretty generally reported that a party ſtill remained, ſtubborn enough to meditate another commemoration on the enſuing anniverſary of that remarkable event. A ſtep that might have brought deſtruction upon themſelves, and the whole town. The report ſoon reached the doctor, who, on the 17th of May, began and finiſhed, *in the ſame day*, his "Letter from Irenopolis, to the Inhabitants of Elentheropolis; or, a Serious Addreſs to the Diſſenters of Birmingham; by a Member of the Eſtabliſhed Church" That extraordinary pamphlet, containing forty octavo pages, rather cloſely printed, on no very large type, produced an advertiſement from the diſſenters, in which, after profeſſing the pureſt loyalty and attachment

"* Such and ſuch only," ſays the doctor, ſpeaking of the ſhort intercourſe that had ſubſiſted between himſelf and Dr. Prieſtley, "has been my connection with him. And was it for this that, in a ſeaſon of deep diſtreſs and dreadful danger, my principles were on a ſudden gnawed at by vermin whiſperers, and worried by brutal reproaches? That my houſe was marked out for conflagration? that my family were, for three days and three nights, agitated with conſternation and diſmay? that my books, which I have long been collecting with indefatigable induſtry—upon which I have expended more than half the produce of more than twenty years unwearied labour—and which I conſidered as the pride of my youth, the employment of my riper age, and, perhaps, the beſt ſolace of declining life—was it for this, I ſay, that my books were expoſed to moſt unexpected, moſt unmerited deſtruction?"

SEQUEL, &c. Pp. 103, 104. Second Edit.

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to the ſovereign, they diſclaimed all knowledge of any deſign to meet again.

This year, to accommodate Dr. Bridges, the doctor exchanged the perpetual curacy of Hatton for the rectory of Wadanhoe in Northamptonſhire, with no view whatever to profit, much leſs from any inclination to change the place of his reſidence.

In the ſame year it was the doctor's fate to be engaged in a diſpute with the Rev. Charles Curtis, the rector of St. Martin's Birmingham. Delicacy forbids us to ſay any more of that unfortunate miſunderſtanding, than that it gave occaſion for the doctor once more to contribute to the ſtock of our national literature, by touching, in his own maſterly way, on ſome of the moſt momentous topics in politics and religion.

Here we find that we owe a debt to truth, and we ſhall pay it. The anonymous author of "The Purſuits of Literature," with his uſual confuſion of ſtatement, and facility of miſrepreſentation, has abuſed the doctor for, firſt "printing a paper" himſelf, and then publiſhing a ſequel to it. Had that writer ſeen the title only of the pamphlet here alluded to, he would have found it to be "a ſequel to the printed paper, lately circulated in Warwickſhire, *by the Rev. Mr. Curtis*, &c. It would, indeed, have been ridiculous in any man to *print a paper* in condemnation of himſelf, and then to publiſh a reply to it in his own juſtification. But that bungling botcher of bad verſe, and rancorous retailer of ribald proſe, has had his reward. He has out-heroded Herod." But the arm of criticiſm has been uplifted againſt him, and cruſhed him with weapons of ſtouter metal than his own—"I war not with the dead."

The diſpute which gave birth to "the Sequel, &c." has long ſince happily terminated. The parties have not forgotten to what profeſſion they belong. A propoſal handſomely made by the Doctor, was readily accepted by Mr. Curtis, and it led

led to a reconciliation. Of this affair the former has written * an account, with his accuſtomed accuracy and ſtrength of feeling.

The year 1794 is remarkable for an even in the Doctor's family, which it would be unpardonable not to relate, as it muſt at once intereſt every fond parent, every kind preceptor, and every benevolent Chriſtian.

If not one of the moſt forward in point of genius, at leaſt one of the moſt promiſſing of his pupils, in ſweetneſs of temper and propriety of conduct, was the only ſon of John Smitheman, Eſq. This amiable youth was ſeized very ſuddenly, about the middle of March, with an alarming illneſs and died in two or three days. The grief of his worthy tutor is thus deſcribed by one of the Doctor's friends:

"On Tueſday, 25th of March, 1794, I was ſent for by the doctor, who, the meſſenger told me, was in the deepeſt diſtreſs. I inſtantly repaired to Hatton, where I found not only the maſter of the houſe, but the whole family, bathed in tears, and in a ſtate of moſt dreadful agony. In ſhort, any one would have thought that a darling child of their own had lain dead. The day was ſpent moſt ſorrowfully. Early the next morning, after a meſſenger had been diſpatched, to convey the melancholy tidings to the unexpecting parents, I retired from this ſcene of affliction, after promiſing to return the ſame evening. I came to Hatton again about ſunſet. The doctor had gone, during my abſence, in ſearch of comfort, to his friend and neighbour Lord Dormers. Not long after my return he came home, and entered the library, where Mrs. Parr, her two daughters, and myſelf, were ſitting at ſupper; he ſat down, without ſpeaking, by the fire, and ſobbed like an infant.

"His attention, however, was ſoon called to the preparations neceſſary for the funeral, in the midſt of which the wonted vigour of his mind returned, and he dictated to me one of the moſt pathetic and impreſſive funeral orations that, perhaps, has ever been written in any language. What follows will never be effaced from my memory.

"We were ſmoking our pipes together the evening before the interment, when it was told the doctor, that the coffin was about to be screwed down. He ſat quietly for a few moments, and then hurried me

* Reply to Dr. Combe.

along

along with him to the chamber where the body of the deceaſed lay. There, after a laſt view of the corpſe, he ordered the whole houſe to aſſemble, and falling on his knees, while his grief ſeemed every moment as if it would choak his utterance, he burſt forth into an extemporary prayer, ſo piouſly humble, ſo fervently devout, and ſo conſummately eloquent, that it drew a torrent of tears from all preſent."

The funeral was conducted with great ſolemnity; and, in the chancel, over the grave, an elegant mural monument has been erected, with a ſuitable Latin inſcription.

Having ſcrupulouſly diſcharged theſe ſacred duties, the Doctor ſought for conſolation and relief in his books, and in deviſing ornaments for his pariſh church. By a ſubſcription among his former and preſent pupils, and a few friends, he had already contrived to embelliſh it with two fine chandeliers; and this year a new eaſt window, and one on each ſide of the chancel were beautifully painted by Mr. Eggington. The ſubject of the largeſt of theſe is the crucifixion; and the manner in which it is executed excites great expectation, from the future improvements of that artiſt, in every beholder. Still ſome literary exertions were neceſſary to rouſe his mind, and, fortunately for him, he had been engaged before this event in a laborious piece of criticiſm, which being not yet finiſhed, he was called upon to complete.

Early in 1793 the Britiſh Critic, a new Review, had been offered to the public, and had met with a favourable reception. From his acquaintance with the conductor of that work, he had been induced to lend it his aſſiſtance; and, accordingly, in the beginning of this year, he entered upon an examination of Dr. Combe's Variorum Edition of Horace, which had recently iſſued from the preſs. That work certainly derived no credit from the remarks of the reviewer which were carried on through five numbers and, diſtinguiſhed by acuteneſs of penetration, ſolidity of judgment, and depth of erudition. The editor was highly incenſed at the critic, and, contrary to whatever we recollect

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to have been done before in any ſimilae caſe, called upon him *by name*, to retract his own aſſertions, and refute his own obſervations. Baffled in that attempt, Dr. Combe at length publiſhed a ſmall pamphlet intitled "A Statement of Facts relative to the Behaviour of Dr. Parr, to the late Mr. H. Homer and Dr. Combe." In that ſtatement Dr. Parr was vehemently accuſed of breach of promiſe, violation of friendſhip, and even of want of veracity. How well and how ſucceſsfully he defended himſelf againſt thoſe charges will not ſoon be forgotten.

Dr. Parr, in his reply to the Editor, has given the whole hiſtory of the connection with Mr. Homer, from its commencement to the death of the latter. Moſt intereſting and ſatisfactory is that account, and we believe the doctor's affection for his friend to have been moſt ſincere, and the grief he felt at his death moſt poignant. Whether the Variorum Horace was firſt projected by Dr. Combe, or not, and whether Dr. Parr engaged to take any conſiderable ſhare in it, or not, it is certain that Mr. Homer was to have been the principal conductor of that arduous undertaking, and probable, that the editor might be indebted to him for the merit which belongs to the execution.

To do juſtice to ſuch a character as that of Dr. Samuel Parr—to mark the extent of his erudition, to deſcribe the powers of his eloquence, to ſhow the vaſt magnitude of his genius, but, above all, to praiſe his virtues as they deſerve, is a taſk that we reluctantly reſign to ſome future biographer. In what we have written it has been our aim

"Nought to extenuate,
"Nor ſet down aught in malice."

But we muſt be permitted to affirm, that as a divine, he is ſedulous and beneficent: That his politics are not the offspring, and have never been the tools, of party: That he is a warm friend, a tender parent, and a kind neighbour.

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As a preceptor, the treatment of his pupils has been paternal, and an affection truly filial has often been manifeſted by moſt of them towards him.

Dr. Parr has very lately declined taking any more pupils. His friends are numerous, and their converſation and correſpondence, have been his principal ſolace and relief through many years of unremitting toil. It has been his cuſtom, in various parts of the kingdom, to ſpend his holy-days among them.

It has been, in ſuch a degree, the doctor's pride to improve and embelliſh his church, that the decorations may, by ſome, be deemed too gorgeous. All the windows, except two, which belong to the ſinging gallery, are now painted; and the pulpit-cloth and the other furniture, are ſumptuous and magnificent.

His library, which he himſelf built, on his coming to reſide at Hatton, is a large well proportioned room. But, no longer capable of holding all his books, which, we have heard, he has ſince been obliged to diſtribute among other apartments. So voracious, indeed, and inſatiable is his helluoſity, that we doubt whether, if his books continue to accumulate as they have hitherto done, the whole houſe may be ample enough to contain them. For ſcarcity of edition, taſte in ſelection, and wide range of literature, a more valuable collection has, probably, never been made by any ſingle ſcholar, who was not a man of high rank, or ſplendid fortune.

About the year 1771, the doctor married Mis Maiſendale, by whom he has had ſeveral children. Two only are now living. The eldeſt was married, not long ſince, to the eldeſt ſon of Colonel Wynne. The other is unmarried.

X. Y.

DOCTOR CHARLES HUTTON.

THIS extraordinary perſon, F. R. S. and member of ſeveral learned academies in Europe and America, is the preſent Profeſſor of Mathematics to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich; having adorned that chair for upwards of twenty-ſix years, and greatly contributed, by his induſtry and judgment, to raiſe the courſe of education at that ſeminary to the moſt diſtinguiſhed pitch of credit and uſefulneſs.

That great talents, and the higheſt reſpectability of character and manners in life, do often emerge, by the force and energy of individual powers, from low and obſcure origin, are facts, which, perhaps, have at no time been better illuſtrated than in the inſtance of this gentleman, whoſe diſtinguiſhed abilities and application have raiſed him to the moſt reſpectable eminence in life and literature.

Dr. Hutton is a native of the town of Newcaſtle-upon-Tyne, in Northumberland, where he was born about the year 1737, of parents, who, though among the lower ranks in life, were always at the top, and among the moſt reſpectable, of their ſtation; a circumſtance which Dr. H. himſelf has alſo at all times preſerved through the various conditions and ſituations which he has filled in life..

At an early age he was ſent to a ſchool in his native place, where he ſoon made a rapid progreſs in the firſt rudiments of education, being always among the foremoſt in his claſſes. In conſequence of theſe promiſing appearances, his parents were encouraged and perſuaded, by their neighbours, to continue this, their youngeſt ſon, whom they conſidered as the

the hopes of the family, at country-ſchools in the vicinity of Newcaſtle, till he arrived at near the age of manhood, while his elder brothers were ſent to laborious employments.

Here he acquired all the little learning to be obtained at ſuch village-ſchools, conſiſting of reading, writing, and accounts, with a little Latin, and the rudiments of practical geometry, menſuration, ſurveying, &c. In all the ſchool-exerciſes, he was among the foremoſt ranks, and the chief favourite of his maſters, not ſeldom to the envy and ill-will of his ſchool-mates. If a queſtion of calculation more difficult than ordinary occurred, he was ſure to ſelect it, being always emulous to be at the top of every thing in hand. Beſides, having always manifeſted, from the earlieſt ſtage of infancy, an uncommon docility, notability, and ſimplicity of manners, theſe endearing qualities rendered *Charles Hutton*, at all times, the wonder and little favourite of every one, more eſpecially among the females of his acquaintance.

Moſtly in this way was his early youth paſſed away, till the loſs of his parents compelled him to think of ſome ſort of employment for ſubſiſtence; and, being without any regular occupation, he commenced country-ſchoolmaſter about the 18th year of his age; a line of life in which he has continued ever ſince, in various places, with the moſt ample ſucceſs, having riſen by his talents to the top of his profeſſion.

This commencement of his occupation was at the village of Jeſmond, about two miles from Newcaſtle, where he remained a few years, inſtructing the children of that neighbourhood, and improving himſelf by cloſe ſtudy, and eagerly reading all the mathematical and other books he could purchaſe with the ſavings out of his little income: by which means he found his mind and powers gradually opening, his knowledge conſiderably extended, and, with it, his ardent

dent love for the mathematics, and thirſt for knowledge in general.

In this purſuit, his exertions were greatly ſtimulated and his little ſtock of knowledge increaſed, by reſolving the queſtions in that moſt uſeful almanac, the Ladies Diary: a little work, which, though ſeemingly mean and inſignificant, has been the occaſion of rearing more mathematicians in this country, than half the other books profeſſedly written on the ſubject; a benefit for which his gratitude has amply repaid, by his annual labours for that little book, during an uninterrupted ſucceſſion of more than forty years; by which endeavours that work has been raiſed to the higheſt pitch of reſpectability among the learned mathematicians of this country.

During the few years of his reſidence at this place, too, another remarkable circumſtance took place in the condition of our young ſchool-maſter; by his becoming, for a time, a cloſe and zealous follower of the Methodiſts, and at length he ventured even to write ſermons, and to preach among them. From his very earlieſt infancy, Mr. H. had always been of a caſt of mind and diſpoſition at once ſerious, ſincere, affectionate, devout. Even when a boy, of only ten or twelve years, by reading ſome old devotional tracts, (for, he eagerly devoured all ſorts of books that fell in his way,) he had wrought himſelf up to ſuch a pitch of enthuſiaſm, that, among other acts of devotion, he formed a little retired arbour in a wood, through which the path lay in his way to ſchool, that he might ſtep aſide to pray in it, for a few minutes, as he paſſed to and from ſchool.

And about this time he made a conſiderable ſacrifice to the ſincerity of this diſpoſition, by deſtroying all the ballads and popular little books of tales and ſtories uſually read at a tender age; a ſacrifice the more extraordinary, as he had gathered together a great number of them, at the expence of all the little money that was given him from time to time;

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the practice of collecting a mass of what he considered as curious books having been a predominant passion with him through all the stages and changes of his life. It was never sufficient for him to read a book, and then part with it again; but he must also possess it as his own, and add it to his collection, to have it always at hand to refer to on any occasion.

This devotional temper of mind had never entirely quitted him; so that, on falling in company with some neighbouring people of the sect of Methodists, he was the more easily led to join them, as he did for a few years, till such time as he removed into the town of Newcastle, where he gradually declined his connection with them.

This removal was about the year 1760. By dint of a continual perseverance, in study and reading, at vacant hours and late evenings, Mr. H. had now acquired, as he thought, such a stock of scientific knowledge and experience in his profession, that he judged his acquirements too good for the obscure village and little country circuit in which he shone with unequalled credit among several others of his profession, and that they authorized him in making a tender of his services in that town, the rich metropolis of a large district, where he might hope to be better rewarded for his labours, by instructing the children of the more opulent inhabitants, and that in the higher branches of their education, or at least, so far as utterly to decline the humble and painful office of teaching them to read: a plan in which he perfectly succeeded, in opposition to every extraneous difficulty that could be made to his success, difficulties which were both numerous and powerful.

In the first place, his very name was almost unknown in the town, having made acquaintance only with two or three booksellers and school-masters, the latter of whom were more ready to impede than to favour his endeavours. In the next place, by selecting only the higher branches of the

the education of youth, and reſolutely rejecting the lower, he formed new and unuſual obſtacles to ſucceſs, by diminiſhing the chance for pupils, and introducing a novelty in the profeſſion of ſchool-maſters with which the people were but little acquainted. Another obſtacle was, that he at once indiſpenſably demanded for his price of teaching more than double the ſum that had uſually been paid in that town for the like branches of education; a demand which withheld from his ſchool many a pupil, whom he might otherwiſe have had. Finally, and, perhaps, moſt of all, from a haſty and unhappy marriage, which he entered into at the very time of his removal; a connection which he had been precipitated into, partly from the domeſtic turn of his mind, and partly from the natural warmth and temperament of his conſtitution, which it ſeems began at an early age, and accompanied him always through life.

From theſe and other cauſes, it happened, that it was ſome time before Mr. H. got into much employment, ſtruggling with adverſity and the cravings of an increaſing family; diſtreſſes which were alſo accompanied with the diſappoinment of his expectations of domeſtic comfort from his matrimonial connection: forming altogether ſuch a load of diſtreſſes as would have driven a mind of leſs integrity and fortitude to ſeek refuge in a deſperate flight from the whole at once.

By force, however, of a regular good conduct, with improving talents and qualifications, he at length ſucceeded in triumphing over moſt of theſe difficulties, and became the chief teacher in the place for thoſe branches of education which he had ſelected for his employment; maintaining his family in a ſtyle of decency and credit, always above others of the ſame line of life, beſide making conſiderable additions to his ſtock of mathematical and philoſophical books, which, during the thirteen years of his reſidence

ſidence in the place, arrived at a degree which occaſioned them to be much ſpoken of as reſpectable, and the more ſo, when it was conſidered how difficult it muſt be to procure many of ſuch curious books as he there collected together.

During this period, Mr. H. made a rapid and continual increaſe of knowledge in all the mathematical ſciences, of which he gave many extraordinary and public proofs, both by publications of his own, and by the reſolution of certain curious and difficult queſtions in various periodical publications, as magazines, diaries, ſcientific repoſitories, and ſuch like, more eſpecially the mathematical queſtions in the Ladies' Diary, in his own name, and in Martin's Magazine of Sciences, under the ſignature of *Tonthu*, being the letters of his name tranſpoſed.

The firſt of Mr. H.'s own ſeparate publications was the little book on Arithmetic, for the uſe of ſchools, firſt printed at Newcaſtle in the year 1764, a work which has met with ſo much approbation, as has ſince carried it through ten very numerous editions. In printing the firſt edition of this work, to ſupply the want of proper mathematical types in ſo diſtant a provincial town as Newcaſtle, Mr. H. was obliged, with his own hand, to cut with the pen-knife, on the reverſed end of old types, many of the algebraical characters that were uſed in the vulgar fractions and other parts.

After this beginning, Mr. H. next occupied his evenings in compoſing a large work on Menſuration, which afterwards came out in numbers, of a quarto form, the laſt of them in the year 1770, printed alſo at Newcaſtle. This was a very extenſive work, of near 700 quarto pages, on menſurations of all kinds, both theoretical and practical, on a plan and to an extent far exceeding any thing of the name or kind that had ever before been ſeen: indeed,

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ſo high had the author's character riſen in the public eſteem, that more than a thouſand ſubſcribers were found to encourage the publication. The public eſteem and expectation were not forfeited or diſappointed in this work; which exhibited ſuch traits of genius, induſtry, and acquaintance with the beſt of the more ancient authors, as were very unexpected and ſurpriſing. A ſecond edition of this work, with improvements, was publiſhed at London in the year 1788, in a large octavo form.

The active mind of Mr. H. ſoon produced another ſpecimen of his genius and induſtry, in a republication of all the uſeful parts of the Ladies' Diaries, from the beginning of that favourite little almanack, in the year 1704, to that of the year 1773. This edition was publiſhed in parts, or numbers, quarterly, beginning in July, 1771, and ending in July, 1775; making a collection of five volumes, viz. two volumes of the poetical, and three volumes of the mathematical parts of the Diaries. Theſe extracts were accompanied with large and numerous notes, ſupplying all defects in the original ſolution of the queſtions, &c. by means of curious and elegant conſtructions, calculations, and demonſtrations; the whole forming a body of curious diſſertations and queſtions, with their anſwers, &c. Each number was alſo accompanied by a few ſheets of a new mathematical correſpondence, of original eſſays, queſtions, &c. making up one volume, or mathematical miſcellany, in which the contributions of our author himſelf made a conſiderable portion, but under ſeveral different fictitious names.

About the years 1771 and 1772, Mr. H. was employed, by the magiſtrates of Newcaſtle, as the fitteſt perſon in that place to make an accurate ſurvey of the town and county of the town of Newcaſtle-upon-Tyne; a tract of many miles in circuit, and a town, which, from the crook-

ednefs of the ftreets and the uneavenneſs of the ground, is perhaps the moſt difficult of all the towns in the iſland to meaſure. Of this tract he made a moſt accurate ſurvey and plan, which was ſoon after engraved and publiſhed, in a map conſiſting of two very large ſheets of paper, containing alſo a neat abridged account of the hiſtory, trade, and population, of that curious place.

Although Mr. H. had both theſe works in hand at the ſame time, namely, the ſurvey and plan of Newcaſtle, and the Diarian Miſcellany, he encountered another, not inconſiderable, work, which was rather of a temporary nature, occaſioned by the ſudden fall of Newcaſtle old bridge, which was borne down the 17th of November, 1771, by a very high flood, which raiſed the waters in the river about nine feet higher than the uſual ſpring-tides.

This accident having given riſe to many abſurd notions among the people concerning arches and bridges, Mr. H. thought that the demonſtration of the relations between the more eſſential parts of a bridge would not be unprofitable to ſuch architects and builders as might be inclined, and capable of attending, to the theory of arches. In conſequence of ſuch reflections, in the ſpace of two or three months he compoſed, and got printed at Newcaſtle, a very learned and uſeful little book on the ſubject of arches, intitled, " The Principles of Bridges; containing the mathematical Demonſtrations of the Properties of the Arches, the Thickneſs of the Piers, the Force of the Water againſt them, &c. with practical Obſervations and Directions drawn from the Whole," in octavo, 1772. Although this work was produced with ſuch rapidity, that his moſt intimate friends could hardly perceive it was begun, when it was already finiſhed, in the midſt of other public labours, it has not failed to give the moſt general ſatisfaction to architects and engineers, and a new edition of it has been long a deſideratum with the public.

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It is remarkable, that the printing of the foregoing works at Newcaſtle, viz. the Menſuration, the Bridges, and the Diarian Miſcellany, happily proved the occaſion of rearing and bringing to public notice the moſt excellent wood engraver or cutter that the world has perhaps beheld, in the perſon of the ingenious Mr. BEWICK, of Newcaſtle, ſo much admired for his elegant execution in wood of the collections of beaſts and birds, ſince publiſhed.

It being deſired to have the figures to thoſe three books executed in wood, and there being no artiſt of that kind in the place, or any perſon who had ever executed a cut of that ſort; it was found, however, to poſſeſs a very ingenious young man, Mr. Ralph Beilby, who engraved ſeals and other little things in metal, &c. This riſing artiſt, from his own ingenuity, aſſiſted by ſome hints and communications of Mr. H. ſoon produced ſuch mathematical cuts as had ſeldom been ſeen in ſuch books, and which have hardly been much excelled.

The beauty of the cuts in theſe works was ſuch, that, afterwards, when Mr. H. came to reſide at Woolwich, near London, and in conſequence had become known to Dr. Horſley, now biſhop of Rocheſter, this learned gentleman, being about to begin the printing of his complete edition of all the works of Newton, inquired of Mr. H. what artiſt had executed thoſe cuts; and, in conſequence of his recommendation, Mr. BEILBY executed the cuts for that work.

So great a quantity of buſineſs of this kind, both for the works of Newton and in Mr. H.'s three books beforementioned, gave occaſion to Mr. Beilby to unite with himſelf, in the execution of them, his pupil and aſſiſtant Mr. BEWICK, who has, in conſequence of that circumſtance, ſince that time riſen to ſuch perfection in that art, as to excite the wonder of all perſons who view his ſpecimens of execution.

After thirteen years reſidence at Newcaſtle, in a continued progreſſive increaſe in knowledge and reſpectability, Mr. H. removed to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in the ſpring of the year 1773, where he hath ever ſince occupied the head office in the mathematical department, with increaſing credit to himſelf and benefit to the public. The circumſtances of this removal do him the greateſt honour, having, without any intereſt, borne away the prize from a number of very able competitors, whoſe applications were backed with very powerful intereſt.

The health of Mr. John Lodge Cowley (the then Profeſſor of Mathematics there, who had ſucceeded the celebrated Mr. Thomas Simpſon, in the year 1760) having ſo much declined, that he could no longer attend the duties of his office, the maſter-general and principal officers of the Board of Ordnance came to the reſolution of permitting him to retire. When this intention became known, the maſter-general, Lord Townſhend, was preſently aſſailed on all ſides by applications and great intereſt, to ſucceed him: but his lordſhip, being well aware how important offices may paſs into the hands of improper perſons, when taken on the recommendation only of great and powerful intereſt, highly to the honour of his judgment and honeſty, declared, that he would not yield to any ſolicitations of intereſt, but that the place ſhould be filled by the candidate who ſhould beſt acquit himſelf, on a general examination of all the competitors, to be held at a time appointed, by four of the moſt learned and ſkilful perſons that could be found, viz. the Rev. Dr. HORSLEY, (the preſent biſhop of Rocheſter,) the Rev. Dr. MASKELYNE, (aſtronomer royal,) Colonel WATSON, (chief engineer in the India-Company's ſervice,) and Mr. LANDEN, a moſt able mathematician.

By mere chance this reſolution became known to Mr. H. at Newcaſtle; who, thereupon, without a particle of intereſt

intereſt with the great, and without being at all known to any one, unleſs, perhaps, it might be by name, to ſome of the examiners, being conſcious of his own powers, on which he ſolely relied, preſently repaired to the capital, from a diſtance of near three hundred miles, to preſent himſelf a candidate for examination. At the time appointed, all the competitors, ſix or eight in number, attended the Board of Examiners, at the beginning of a week, by whom they were all ſeparately examined, in a room apart, to prevent any one from taking advantage of the examination of the others. Indeed nothing could be fairer, nor apparently more impartial on the part of the examiners, nor any examination better conducted to anſwer completely the good and wiſe intentions of his lordſhip, the maſter-general. Every candidate was cloſely queſtioned touching his acquaintance with the ſeveral branches of the mathematical ſciences; concerning their principles and properties; the knowledge and choice of books and authors, both ancient and modern; the various and beſt modes of teaching thoſe ſciences; with every other requiſite that ſeemed proper in the qualification for ſuch an office. This examination occupied the whole day till late in the evening; at the concluſion of which, the examiners delivered to each candidate a large collection of very difficult problems, in the more abſtruſe parts of the mathematical and philoſophical ſciences; requeſting their attendance again at the end of the week, to produce ſuch ſolutions to thoſe problems as they might be able to make out.

They met again accordingly; and, though all his competitors were in a manner at home among their friends, and in the midſt of their books, to aſſiſt them in making out ſolutions to the problems; advantages of which Mr. H. was debarred by his peculiar ſituation; yet his knowledge and talents triumphed over all difficulties, and even over the

the private partiality which more than one of the examiners entertained for ſome of the candidates, as their acquaintances, and for whom they had made intereſt, by recommendation, before the appointing of an examination. For, at the concluſion, the Board of Examiners drew up, and united in a report of their proceedings to the maſter-general and board-officers, ſtating, that, though moſt of the candidates were ſufficiently well qualified for diſcharging the duties of the office which was the object of their competition; yet there was one among them, a Mr. Charles Hutton, whom they found it their duty, in a more particular manner, to recommend to his lordſhip's notice for that purpoſe; on account of the very able manner in which he had anſwered all the queſtions of the examiners, and on account of his very extenſive reading and knowledge.

In conſequence, a very few days after, Mr. H. received at his lodgings a notice of his appointment to the office from the maſter-general, who had never ſeen Mr. H. nor ſo much as ever heard of his name before the preſent occaſion. And how wiſe and judicious was his lordſhip's choice, in ſo novel a mode of appointment, has been fully manifeſted by the ſucceſs of the experiment; by the very extraordinary credit of that branch of education at the academy; by the great number of excellent officers Mr. H. has qualified; by the very punctual and regular attendance he always gives to the duties of his office; by the importance of the extra-ſervices he has rendered, in making numerous experiments for the improvement of gunnery, and by the books he has compoſed and printed for the uſe of the academy; and, finally, by the entire approbation of his Majeſty and the governors of the academy, ſo often expreſſed on many occaſions; and whoſe confidence in his judgment and integrity has been farther implied by deſiring him ſucceſſively to nominate and recommend

commend the other two mathematical maſters employed in the academy; a circumſtance to which was owing the appointment of thoſe two able maſters there, Mr. BONNYCASTLE and Mr. EVANS.

Mr. H.'s ſettlement at the Royal Military Academy proved an important æra, not only to himſelf and the academy, but alſo to the ſciences in this country. His new ſituation, near the metropolis, gave him better opportunities of conſulting and collecting the moſt curious books on his peculiar branch of ſtudy, of which it ſeems he has made one of the beſt collections that have been known in this country. That ſituation too, and the credit of the extraordinary mode of his appointment at Woolwich, gave him happy opportunities of becoming acquainted with many of the firſt ſcientific characters in this country, as well as in other parts of Europe; by whoſe converſations and correſpondence he was enabled to profit by freſh acquiſitions of knowledge; and with ſome of the ableſt and moſt virtuous of whom he has ever ſince had the honour to continue on the beſt terms of friendly communication.

In conſequence of the advantage of his new ſituation, too, ſoon after his ſettling at Woolwich, Mr. H. beſide his daily labour in the academy, ſet about, with great alacrity, a new and ſevere courſe of ſtudy of all the beſt books of ſcience, as he procured them: with the view of better qualifying him for the execution of certain works, which, in idea, he had projected.

The firſt publication undertaken by him, after that period, was the compilation of that ingenious and favourite little work, the Ladies' Diary, to which he had for many years before been ſo creditable a contributor. At the moment of his arrival in London, on the buſineſs of the academy at Woolwich, he was informed of the death of the laſt compiler; and, a few days afterwards, the future care of it was confided to his judgment and induſtry, by the Stationers' Company,

Company, with increaſed emoluments: a truſt which he has ever ſince that time carefully diſcharged, by which the work has been raiſed to the higheſt degree of credit, and more than doubled the number of its annual contributors. In conſequence of the ſatisfaction thus given to the Company, they have, at different times, entruſted him with the care and compoſition of other works, beſide accepting his recommendation of other perſons in the compilation of other of their publications.

Alſo, for ſeveral years, immediately after his ſettling at Woolwich, Mr. H. employed part of his time in writing accounts of mathematical and philoſophical books, for the periodical reviews, monthly publiſhed in London. And, when his other avocations would no longer admit of his continuing ſuch critiques, his recommendation of other perſons to ſucceed him in that department was thankfully acknowledged by the proprietors.

The ſame year that Mr. H. removed to Woolwich, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, being introduced to that honour, by ſome reſpectable members, before their kind and honourable intentions were known to himſelf: and how well their expectations of his uſefulneſs to the Society have been realized has been abundantly manifeſted by his numerous and valuable communications of papers printed in the Philoſophical Tranſactions.

The firſt of theſe was, "A New and General Method of finding Simple and Quickly-converging Series, by which the Proportion of the Diameter of a Circle to its Circumference may eaſily be computed to a great Number of Figures": printed in the Tranſactions for 1776. And the ſecond was, "A Demonſtration of Two remarkable Theorems mentioned in a former Article of the Tranſactions;" alſo publiſhed in the ſame year 1776."

The next was a large and very important communication, in the year 1778, entitled, "The Force of fired Gunpowder

Gunpowder, and the Initial Velocities of Cannon-Balls, determined by Experiments; from which is alſo deduced the Relation of the Initial Velocity to the Weight of the Shot and the Quantity of the Charge of Powder." This paper contains the account and calculation of a great number of curious experiments, with cannon-balls, made at Woolwich, in the year 1775, by himſelf and other ingenious gentlemen; and ſo aſſured was the Society of the value of this communication, that Mr. H. was honoured with the prize-medal of that year; the delivery of which to him, at the concluſion of an excellent diſcourſe on that occaſion, was the laſt act of Sir John Pringle's adminiſtration as preſident of the Society: a ſituation from which it was ſaid he had been induced to withdraw in diſguſt, on account of ill treatment in his office. At the ſame time, alſo, Dr. HORSLEY (the preſent biſhop of Rocheſter) reſigning his office of ſecretary to the Society, Mr. H. became a candidate to ſucceed him; but which, on account of the particular ſituation of his competitor, Mr. Maty, and his family, was given to the latter. On this occaſion, however, the Society elected Mr. H. one of the council, and alſo conferred on him the office of Latin ſecretary, for conducting the foreign correſpondence, vacated by the election of Mr. Maty to the reading ſecretaryſhip. And how well Mr. H. diſcharged the duties of that office may well be judged by the many excellent tranſlations of foreign communications from the Latin, French, and Italian languages, printed in the Tranſactions, in the ſeveral following years, till 1784.

In the Tranſactions of the ſame year appeared, "An Account of the Calculations made from the Survey and Meaſures taken at Schehallien, in order to aſcertain the mean Denſity of the Earth." The determination of the mean denſity of the earth was an important problem inſtituted by the Society; and the ſurvey and meaſurements, for that purpoſe, were taken at and about the hill Schehallien, in

in Perthſhire, in the years 1774, 1775, 1776, by the direction, and partly under the inſpection, of Dr. MASKELYNE, the Aſtronomer Royal: after which, the Society confided to Mr. H. the important office of making the calculations, and drawing the proper deductions from them. This was a very laborious work, requiring many thouſand calculations, which were completed in the ſpace of one year. It was alſo of great importance in itſelf, as affording one of the beſt proofs of the general attraction of matter; and, beſides great accuracy in the calculation, it was neceſſary, the operator ſhould poſſeſs no ordinary portion of genius and addreſs to manage ſo very delicate a buſineſs, being in a manner of a quite novel nature. And perhaps the Society could hardly have diſcovered another perſon poſſeſſing the requiſite qualifications in ſo eminent a degree. Indeed the concluſion of this work fully juſtified the Society's choice, the operation doing equal honour to the Society and to the computor. In the reſult, Mr. H. found that the mean denſity of the earth was in proportion to that of the hill Schehallien, as 9 is to 5; ſo that, whenever the actual denſity of the hill ſhall be aſcertained, (which it ſeems conſiſts of a ſolid maſs of the hardeſt ſtone,) from thence the real denſity of the earth, in reſpect of ſtone, or of water, will alſo eaſily follow.

The year following was given another paper, by Dr. Hutton, intended as a ſupplement to the foregoing one, containing "Calculations to determine at what point in the ſide of a Hill its Attraction will be the greateſt;" a deſideratum very uſeful in ſuch a problem, as the deviation of the plumb-line, by the attraction of the hill, is but ſmall in any caſe.

The next communication, which was in the year 1780, was a very long tract on cubic equations and infinite ſeries; in which the ſubject of thoſe equations ſeems to be exhauſted.

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The next, in the year 1783, was a "Project for a new Diviſion of the Quadrant." This is a project for adopting or calculating new tables of ſines, tangents, and ſecants, to equal parts of the radius, inſtead of to thoſe of the quadrant; in which way, the numbers in the column of arcs will denote the real lengths of the arcs, inſtead of the arbitrary diviſion of 60ths, or degrees and minutes.

This was the laſt of Dr. H.'s communications to the Society; as it ſeems a ſtop was put to his uſefulneſs in that way, by what was deemed a cruel act of oppreſſion in the new preſident, which it ſeemed grew out of the following circumſtances.

The adjudication of the prize-medal to Dr. H.'s paper, before-mentioned, on the force of fired gunpowder, had neceſſarily produced a conſiderable intercourſe between him and the preſident, Sir John Pringle, while this learned veteran was drawing up the curious paper containing the ſpeech he was to pronounce on delivering the medal to Dr. H. an intercourſe which produced a mutual friendſhip and confidence, which ended only with the death of Sir John. This circumſtance, with that of his not paying ſufficient court and attendance on the new preſident, (a practice at all times hoſtile to Dr. H.'s natural diſpoſition,) it was alleged, by his friends, produced a jealouſy and diſlike againſt him, and at length a determination of removing Dr. H. from his office of foreign ſecretary. For this purpoſe, it ſeems, the preſident procured a reſolution of council, "that it was expedient for the foreign ſecretary to reſide conſtantly in London." Dr. H. conceiving himſelf to have been affronted by this reſolution of the council, went to the ſociety, and reſigned his place, in a ſpeech, which, though couched in modeſt words, and apparently conveying no more than an ordinary reſignation, ſtrongly ſpoke the language of injured merit.

In conſequence of theſe and other alleged circumſtances of malverſation in his office, the conduct of the preſident was

was loudly arraigned by Dr. HORSLEY, and other friends of Dr. HUTTON, in ſome violent debates; which at length concluded with the reſignation of the ſecretaryſhip by Mr. Maty, and the ſeceſſion of a number of the learned members. Theſe proceedings took place in 1784; and accounts of them were given in ſeveral pamphlets publiſhed at the ſame time.

Soon after this, viz. in 1786, Dr. H. publiſhed a volume of mathematical and philoſophical tracts, in 4to. containing a number of curious papers, which would probably have appeared in the volumes of the Philoſophical Tranſactions had not the foregoing proceedings taken place in the Society. Among theſe tracts, which are all of them curious and original, is a long one, of near 200 pages, of great importance to the public utility of the nation. It conſiſts of "New Experiments in Artillery; for determining the Force of fired Gunpowder; the Initial Velocity of Cannon-Balls; the Ranges of Pieces of Cannon at different Elevations; the reſiſtance of the Air to Projectiles; the Effect of different Lengths of Cannon; and of different quantities of Powder, &c. &c." Theſe valuable experiments were the reſult of the employment of the years 1783, 1784, 1785; and the account of them is accompanied with calculations, and followed by deductions of the higheſt concernment.

Beſide theſe works, the active and patient mind of Dr. H. has produced ſeveral other uſeful and ingenious publications. As, firſt, in 1781, in a folio volume, "Tables of the Products and Powers of Numbers publiſhed by Order of the Commiſſioners of Longitude." A very curious work, of immenſe labour and calculation, which, it has been ſaid, was chiefly owing to the induſtry of his preſent or ſecond wife, a lady of extraordinary learning, talents, and goodneſs, who it ſeems has alſo aſſiſted him on ſome other occaſions of laborious calculations.

Secondly,

Secondly, in 1785, "Mathematical Tables; containing the common, hyperbolic, and logiſtic, Logarithms; alſo Sines, Tangents, Secants, and Verſed Sines, both natural and logarithmic; with ſeveral other Tables uſeful in mathematical Calculations: to which is prefixed, a large and original Hiſtory of the Diſcoveries and Writings relating to thoſe Subjects." A hiſtory, which it muſt have coſt many years painful toil in reading different books, and collecting the materials for it, and to deſcribe in detail their contents, the inventions, and improvements, contained in ſuch a number of ſcarce and curious books, in all languages. A ſecond edition was printed in 1794.

In 1786, "The compenduous Meaſurer; being a brief, yet comprehenſive, Treatiſe on Menſuration and practical Geometry; with an Introduction to decimal and duodecimal Arithmetic; adapted to Practice and the Uſe of Schools." This is chiefly an abridgement of his large work on Menſuration, and has ſince gone through ſeveral other editions.

In 1787, in one volume 8vo, "Elements of conic Sections, with ſelect Exerciſes in various Branches of Mathematics and Philoſophy, for the Uſe of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich." This volume, which conſiſts chiefly of practical exerciſes for the uſe of the Cadets at the Academy, was ordered to be printed by the Duke of Richmond, then maſter-general of the ordnance; on which occaſion, Dr. H. had the honour to be preſented to the King, and to kiſs his Majeſty's hand.

In 1796 came out, in two large volumes in 4to, Dr. H.'s "Mathematical and Philoſophical Dictionary;" a work which is replete with abundance of curious and original matter, and it muſt have employed moſt part of the author's life in reading books, and extracting from them the materials for this work. We have heard it ſaid, and can believe it, that one article, viz. the ALGEBRA alone, occupied no leſs than two years of the author's time in writing it, and reading all the treatiſes on the ſame ſubject to collect the materials.

In

In 1798, appeared the laſt of Dr. Hutton's publications, being, "A new Courſe of Mathematics, in two volumes, compoſed, and more eſpecially deſigned, for the Uſe of the Gentlemen Cadets in the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich." A work in which he has condenſed into two octavo volumes, of a midling ſize, a vaſt body and variety of uſeful matter; and, though moſtly on the elementary ſciences, treated in a novel manner, with great neatneſs, preciſion, and even elegance.

In 1779, our author had the honour to be preſented with a diploma, conſtituting him Doctor of Laws, by the Univerſity of Edinburgh; and he has ſince been elected honorary member of ſeveral learned academies, both in Europe and America.

It is no ſmall credit to the economy and good management of his domeſtic concerns, as well as his induſtry, that, although he has always had a family to provide for, and his family has always appeared in a ſtyle of life and reſpectability above others of the ſame rank, by his own labours alone, Dr. H. has been enabled to realize a comfortable little independence, in a neat little freehold farm which he has bought; upon which he has built ſeveral neat houſes, and which he cultivates in ſuch a ſtyle, for his amuſement, that he may be ſaid to have reared a village and planted a garden in the wilderneſs. A circumſtance by which the verſatility and extent of his genius has alſo farther appeared; as well as by another, which is ſeeming ſtill farther removed from the nature of his own profeſſion; namely, a manufacture of bricks and tiles, which he carried on to ſome extent for ſeveral years, by the materials dug out of the ground on his own eſtate, till he was diſguſted with the buſineſs by the villany of the workmen he was obliged to employ in the works. In this way, in the ſhort ſpace of four or five years, he made more improvements, and produced more curious ſpecimens of

of the trade, than many manufacturers that have been engaged their whole life in the buſineſs.

Notwithſtanding ſuch extraordinary exertions and labour of body and mind, for ſo long a ſeries of years, we are glad to obſerve, that Dr. H. ſtill enjoys a very uncommon ſhare of health and activity; from which we may reaſonably expect to ſee ſtill more of his very uſeful public labours. Though it is ſaid he has never ceaſed to lament the loſs of his very amiable youngeſt daughter, at the age of ſixteen, in the year 1794, of whoſe very brilliant talents and accompliſhments ſome account was given in the Gentleman's Magazine in the month of October that year; ſince which, it ſeems, he has unhappily never quite recovered his wonted ſpirits and livelineſs.

A. D.

LORD

LORD HAWKESBURY.

THE Right Honourable Robert Bank, Jenkinſon, ſon of the Earl of Liverpool and of Miſs Watts, daughter of Governor Watts, of Bengal,) who died a few months after his birth, was born the 7th of June, 1770.

He was placed, at a very early age, at the academy of Parſon's Green, near Fulham, where he remained until he entered his thirteenth year. The noble Earl, his father, who had himſelf experienced the benefits reſulting from the ſyſtem of education adopted at the Charter-Houſe, then removed him to that excellent inſtitution, in which he continued for two years. His improvement in claſſical learning, during that period, was conſiderable; and his progreſs in literature was frequently exemplified, not only by correct and elegant tranſlations from the Greek and Latin authors, but by ſeveral original compoſitions, which were allowed to poſſeſs taſte and judgment, and are ſtill preſerved by one of his ſchool-fellows.

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A very ſhort interval took place between his leaving the Charter-Houſe, and his entering the college of Chriſt-Church, Oxford; and that interval was employed in a manner the moſt likely to prove advantageous to his proſpects and intereſts in life. His father, perfectly ſatisfied with the reſult of his ſcholaſtic purſuits, thought it neceſſary to direct his application to objects of a more important nature, and traced out for him a line of ſtudy, adapted to qualify him for thoſe high ſituations in the ſtate, which he now fills, and to which he was already deſtined by parental fondneſs. He was furniſhed with a catalogue of the moſt approved writers on the different branches of public economy, and the peruſal of them was earneſtly recommended to him in the courſe of his collegiate exerciſes. Thus happily directed, and implicitly following the inſtructions of one, who was deeply verſed in the accompliſhments neceſſary to form, if not an eminent, at leaſt an uſeful, ſtateſman, he left the Univerſity with a greater knowledge of commerce, manufactures, and finance, than ſome of the learned profeſſors, whoſe lectures on ethics, natural philoſophy, and mathematics, he had attended.

His Lordſhip ſoon after viſited France, and was at Paris during the demolition of the Baſtille, and ſeveral other important tranſactions in the commencement of the revolution. While he reſided in that capital, he was indefatigable in acquiring a correct knowledge of the characters and views of the leading men in the intereſt of the court, and of thoſe, who, by their eminence of talents, or political intrigues, had obtained popularity. His communications on a ſubject, ſo materially intereſting to this country, proved highly ſatisfactory to the Britiſh miniſtry, and furniſhed the *premier* with a very favourable inſtance of his Lordſhip's induſtry and diſcrimination.

On his return to England, he was elected, in 1790, member for the borough of Rye, in Suſſex; but, not having attained his one-and-twentieth year, he paſſed the intermediate time in a tour on the Continent, and took his ſeat in the Houſe of Commons in the year 1791.

Early in the following year of the ſame ſeſſion, the Ruſſian Armament, as it was called, ſupplied Oppoſition with an opportunity of cenſuring adminiſtration; and the conduct of his Majeſty's miniſters, with reſpect to the war between the Empreſs of Ruſſia and the Ottoman Porte, became the ſubject of parliamentary debate. Mr. WHITBREAD ſupported, on that occaſion, by the whole ſtrength of Oppoſition, brought forward the following motions:

"1ſt. That no arrangement, reſpecting Ockzakow and its diſtrict, appears to have been capable of affecting the political or commercial intereſts of this country, ſo as to juſtify any hoſtile interference on the part of Great Britain between Ruſſia and the Porte.

"2d. That the interference of Great Britain, for the purpoſe of preventing the ceſſion of the ſaid fortreſs and its diſtrict to the Empreſs of Ruſſia, has been wholly unſucceſsful.

"3d. That his Majeſty's miniſters, in endeavouring, by means of an armed force, to compel the Empreſs of Ruſſia to abandon her claim to Ockzakow and its diſtrict, and in continuing an armament, after the object for which it was propoſed had been relinquiſhed, have been guilty of groſs miſconduct, tending to incur unneceſſary expenſes, and to diminiſh the influence of the Britiſh nation in Europe."

Lord Hawkeſbury, then Mr. Jenkinſon, roſe early in the debate, and, in his maiden ſpeech, combated the reſolutions with a force of argument and a perſpicuity of language that evinced a profound knowledge of the queſtion under conſideration, and afforded favourable grounds to believe, that he would at ſome future period become a diſtinguiſhed parliamentary ſpeaker. He peculiarly called the attention of the Houſe to the dangers which threatened Pruſſia from the progreſs of the Imperial arms, and diſplayed a correct idea of the balance of power in conformity

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to the ſtate of Europe, as it was then generally admitted, but which has ſince been ſo materially altered by thoſe extraordinary viciſſitudes, that baffle the projects of human wiſdom and expoſe the vanity of aſſuming fixed principles in political calculation.

He was appointed one of the commiſſioners for India affairs on the 22d of June, 1793; and the activity with which he performed the duties of that important office, fully juſtified the choice of government. In May, 1794, he received his Majeſty's commiſſion to command the cavalry fencible corps of the Cinque Ports, with the rank of colonel in the army; and, in 1796, was re-elected for Rye. When Sir George Yonge was, in the beginning of the preſent year, promoted from the maſterſhip of the Mint to the government of the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies, Lord Hawkeſbury was, without any ſolicitation in his favour, nominated to that employment, ſworn of his Majeſty's moſt honourable Privy-Council, and appointed one of the Lords of the Committee for Trade and foreign Plantations. His Lordſhip is married to one of the daughters of the Earl of Briſtol, biſhop of Derry, in Ireland.

His claims to notice, as a public character, are of a ſubſtantial nature. His mind is ſtored with the moſt uſeful acquiſitions; and, though capable of engaging with ſucceſs in the purſuit of abſtract knowledge, or in metaphyſical diſquiſition, he has wiſely applied his faculties to the cultivation of that kind of information, the theory of which, being derived from experience, generally leads to unequivocal and permanent advantages.

In the principles of legiſlation, the *jus gentium*, and the *arcana* of the *corps diplomatique*, his proficiency is conſiderable; but he chiefly excels in a knowledge of the commerce and manufactures of his country, both in their domeſtic ſtate and their foreign operation.

As a parliamentary ſpeaker, he maintains a reſpectable rank. His ſpeeches are not indeed diſtinguiſhed for

" Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn;"

but his matter and manner are never trifling. His elocution is clear and correct, and his arguments are frequently enforced in an animated and impreſſive ſtyle. He certainly has not juſtified, by ſubſequent exertions, the opinion of his oratorical powers, which his firſt ſpeech impreſſed upon the public mind; but an unguarded expreſſion often depreſſes the confidence of the perſon who has uſed it, and diſcourages a bold diſplay of talents, that might otherwiſe have equalled the moſt ſanguine expectations.

" *The march to Paris,*" uttered in the intoxicating moment of ſucceſs, dwindled into ridicule, when its impracticability was eſtabliſhed by defeat and diſappointment. It was repeated with all the force of ironical invective by the Oppoſition-bench, and reiterated by the anti-miniſterial writers. It ſoon found its way, with many ludicrous comments, into coffee-houſes and places of amuſement, and will probably be preſerved in the tablet of public memory, while his Lordſhip ſhall retain an official ſituation under government.

In private life, the conduct of the noble Lord is of the moſt amiable kind. He is ſuſceptible of every generous feeling; and, to his friendſhip, Mr. CANNING is peculiarly indebted for his riſe in the political world. Lord Hawkeſbury, uninfluenced by any motives of jealouſy from the danger of future competition, to which the beſt characters are ſometimes ſubject, viewed that gentleman's talents with admiration; and, though Mr. CANNING was then on terms of intimate friendſhip with a leading member of Oppoſition, at once eminent as an author, an orator, and a wit, introduced him to the patronage of the Earl of Liverpool, who has ſince warmly intereſted himſelf in his favour.

DOCTOR

DOCTOR ISAAC MILNER.

THE life of this gentleman exhibits a ſingular combination of ability, worth, induſtry, and good fortune. He was born in the Weſt Riding of Yorkſhire, near Leeds, of parents who could boaſt neither of rank nor property. While he was a boy, his father, who was a weaver, died; and the family, left behind, were Iſaac, an elder brother Joſeph, and their mother, old and infirm. As the ſupport of the father was wanting, it was neceſſary that double induſtry ſhould be exerted, by the remaining branches of the family, to enable them even to live. The two young Milners were conſtantly at their ſpinning-wheels by day-break, in the ſummer; and, in winter, they roſe by candle-light to purſue their labour. By this courſe of perſevering diligence, they were enabled, for a long time, to maintain, with credit, themſelves and their aged parent.

It was obſerved of theſe young men, by the neighbours, that they did not aſſociate much with their acquaintances in the village, when a holiday or any other occaſion invited them out to their accuſtomed ſports. Inſtead of this, they employed their vacant time in the ſtudy of a few books, which chance had thrown in their way. This ſingularity brought them into ſome notice; and they became frequently the ſubjects of converſation among their neighbours.

With induſtry, and this love of ſtudy, they alſo united the ſtricteſt ſobriety; ſo that it was generally predicted of them, by the neighbours, that they would one day make good figures in life.

Their fame at laſt began to ſpread through Leeds, a place which eminently abounds with opulent, generous, and diſcerning men. A ſubſcription was readily entered into, by them, to educate, and ſend to college, one of *theſe young men*; and Joſeph, as the elder brother, and

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one who, as yet, they thought, had diſplayed the moſt talent, was fixed upon as the object of their patronage. Iſaac after this was for ſome time thrown into the back ground; though deſtined at laſt to come forward, and exceed even the fortunes of his brother.

Joſeph was ſent to the grammar-ſchool at Leeds; and the leſſons he learnt there by day, on his return home at night, he taught Iſaac; who diſcovered not only a liking for this novel ſtudy of the claſſics, but great quickneſs of parts, memory, and judgment, alſo. Thus paſſed three years; in the courſe of which time, it may be ſuppoſed that Iſaac had gained a tolerable degree of acquaintance with the Greek and Latin languages.

But the time ſoon arrived, when Joſeph was to be ſent to college. This deprived the younger brother of the only aſſiſtant who was able and willing to give him inſtruction. The foundation of knowledge was however laid, and it was only neceſſary now to raiſe the ſuperſtructure. This, by a ſimilar courſe of induſtry, with which he ſet out, was effectually done; ſo that, at the age of nineteen, he might be fairly called a good claſſic.

Having arrived at that age when it is uſual for boys to be put to ſome trade, he was bound apprentice to a weaver. Previouſly educated as Iſaac had been, the loom may not be ſuppoſed to have agreed with his diſpoſition better than the diſtaff with that of Hercules; he had, however, like the old Theban, the ſoft influence of attendant charms to reconcile him to his temporary captivity; for, the Muſes, both in the hour of labour and recreation, were his conſtant companions.

While Iſaac was thus employed in the occupation of a weaver, his brother had finiſhed his ſtudies at Cambridge with conſiderable *éclat*, having ranked as *ſenior optime*, and gained the ſecond claſſical medal. Soon after, he was ordained; and, removing to Hull, held the curacy of Trinity-

nity-Church, and became alſo maſter of the free grammar-ſchool of that place.

Iſaac, who had long compared, with no high degree of ſatisfaction to himſelf, the inglorious toils of a mechanic life, with the ſplendid honours and emoluments of a literary one, thought this a good opportunity to attempt an emancipation from a trade, no way congenial to his diſpoſition, and wrote, therefore, to his brother an account of the progreſs he had made in literature; at the ſame time requeſting to become an aſſiſtant to him in the ſchool, for teaching the lower claſſes. However Joſeph might wiſh to comply with his brother's requeſt, he was reſolved to proceed on ſure grounds; and wrote to a clergyman of Leeds to call and examine his brother; and, if he found his attainments conſiderable, or his genius at all promiſing, to ſend him down to Hull. In conformity to this requeſt, the clergyman waited upon young Iſaac, who was then about nineteen years of age. He was found at his loom, with a Tacitus lying by his ſide. After undergoing an examination for ſome time, in the courſe of which he diſplayed great accuracy of idea, much general knowledge, and an aſtoniſhing command of language, he was thought perfectly eligible to be ſent to Hull. Accordingly, in a few days after, he bade adieu to the humble occupation of weaving for ever.

As mention has neceſſarily been made of Joſeph Milner, with whom Iſaac is now to reſide, it may not be improper to give a little farther introduction to his character.

Joſeph Milner having ſettled at Hull, as maſter of the free grammar-ſchool, and curate of Trinity-Church, became, about the time of his brother's removal from Leeds, convinced, in a manner to which he had hitherto been a ſtranger, of many peculiar doctrines of Chriſtianity; ſuch as, the *New Birth*, *Juſtification by Faith*, *Original Sin*, and *Redemption by Jeſus Chriſt*. Being a man, zealous by nature in every cauſe he undertook, he became,

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in ſupport of theſe points, a fearleſs and animated preacher. With a conduct irreproachable, and an awe of ſanctity which ſeemed to reſide about his perſon, it is not to be wondered at, that he made great impreſſion on his hearers. Thoſe of them, who by nature, were gay, dwelt on his repreſentations of eternal felicity with peculiar partiality, and already counted heaven as their own: the timid were alarmed at his denunciations, and ſaw nothing but perdition awaiting them: while, as they are called, the men of the world, who cannot altogether renounce the dictates of nature and reaſon, ridiculed him as little better than a madman. This *timor deprum*, as Horace would have called it, thus ſeizing the mind of Joſeph Milner, continued ever after to be the leading feature of his character. A Bible was always his pocket-companion, which employed his reſearches, whenever company or buſineſs left a vacant opportunity. This conſtant occupation of the mind on religious ideas, he uſed to recommend to his ſcholars, as the beſt means of counteracting the deſigns of their grand enemy. Nothing, to be ſure, could be more effectual for that purpoſe; but the ſuggeſtions of nature, which are frequently laudable, and, at the ſame time, full as ſubtle as thoſe of Satan, may be unhappily ſilenced by the ſame contrivance: it is neceſſary, therefore, to have the means of diſtinguiſhing the one from the other. Whether ſuch a ſyſtem is to be ranked among the imbecillities of the human mind, and denominated *ſuperſtition*, or eſteemed a new era of awakened ſenſibility to objects of greater importance than thoſe of ſenſe, and to be dignified with the title of *religion*, may be, with ſome, difficult to determine. Certain it is, that Joſeph Milner, for thirty years before his death, lived the life of a ſtrict believer in Chriſtianity; and, more than can be ſaid of the generality of ſuch perſons, his life was anſwerable to his profeſſions; ſo that, whether his conqueſts over the frailties and propenſities

of

of human nature be real or imaginary, he has the moſt indiſputable right to the praiſe of an honeſt man.

With ſuch an example before him, Iſaac could not but imbibe ſome ſentiments of veneration for the Chriſtian religion; and his mind was no doubt tinctured with that particular view of its tenets, which diſtinguiſhed the belief of his brother. His proſpects were now turned towards the church; and, after having aſſiſted his brother for ſome time, in the capacity of uſher, he was removed to Queen's College, Cambridge; where he entered as a ſizer.

Few perſons ever came better prepared to the univerſity, or with talents more likely to make a conſpicuous figure. Beſides his natural aſſiduity and good abilities, he had the advantage of being educated by a perſon, that had gone through the univerſity before him, and that perſon alſo a brother; who muſt have been, therefore, a more ſedulous inſtructor than any other perſon.

While an uſher at Hull, Iſaac Milner had made himſelf a complete claſſic. His knowledge of mathematics muſt have been very conſiderable, too, ſince, on the occurrence of any difficulty in algebra, it was uſual with his brother Joſeph to ſend to him for an explanation; which, though the elder brother might have been able to make out himſelf, yet the readineſs of Iſaac always ſaved him that trouble. In algebra, therefore, and Euclid, he may be conſidered to have poſſeſſed, before even he went to the univerſity, a ſenior *optime*'s knowledge. Another great cauſe of his ſucceſs was the circumſtance of his ſpending the long vacation at his brother's ſchool in his original employment of uſher. By theſe means, he had not only retained what he had learnt, but was enabled to add conſiderably, every year, to his Cambridge acquirements. All the time of his being an under-graduate was ſpent in indefatigable ſtudy. Confident in his abilities, he had fixed his eye upon the firſt honours of the place,

and

and had perſeverance and ability ſufficient to enſure their attainment. In the year 1774, therefore, he became ſenior wrangler, with the honourable diſtinction of *incomparabilis*, and gained alſo the firſt mathematical prize.

This ſtruggle for literary diſtinction, though crowned with ſucceſs, was not attended with that only charm, which can render even ſucceſs pleaſant. Intenſe ſtudy had ſecretly laid the foundation of a nervous diſorder, which may poſſibly continue, as it hitherto has done, to embitter his future life. The equal diſtribution of happineſs ſeems not leſs true than philoſophical; and, perhaps, the painleſs days and embroken ſlumbers of the peaſant form no mean counterpoiſe to the moſt ſplendid rewards of literature.

This valetudinarian ſtate of Mr. Milner may account for ſome peculiarities of his conduct; ſuch as reſiding much at home, and being at church

Parcus cultor deorum et infrequens.

His retirement, however, is ſaid to be employed in labours, which will one day add to his literary fame, and conſiderably benefit the world.

At Cambridge, Mr. Milner became acquainted with that ornament of the Britiſh ſenate and of humanity, WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Eſq. This gentleman, though he had, from his earlieſt years, the advantage of a ſtrict education, yet his ſentiments on religious ſubjects are ſaid to have received great confirmation from the clear reaſonings and able deductions of Mr. Milner. Soon after the commencement of this acquaintance, the parties, together with Mr. Pitt, went on a continental tour; but had not proceeded far, before ſome political changes in this country called them back. A friendſhip, however, was cemented in this ſhort time between them, which is not likely ſoon to be diſſolved.

Soon after Mr. Milner returned from the continent, which

which was in 1788, he was choſen Preſident of the College, to which, as a ſtudent, he had done ſo much credit. Before his election, this venerable aſylum of Eraſmus had greatly decreaſed in reputation, but began then to aſſume ſomething of its ancient conſequence, by the repletion of its numbers. It has always been the preſent Preſident's wiſh that Queen's ſhould not be behind any college in the means of inſtruction; he has, therefore, introduced men of the beſt abilities from the other colleges among the fellows of Queen's, who find in him a ſteady friend and patron. The interior management of the college has alſo been much improved, by the correction of many abuſes, which were ſanctioned by long preſcription. *Ad deterius* is the tendency of every inſtitution, unleſs this ſalutary interference of authority ſometimes takes place. Few, however, like Milner, have fortitude enough to ſupport the obloquy which innovation, however laudable, is apt to produce. At the time he was under-graduate, it was the cuſtom for ſizers to wait on the fellows, to dine after they had done, and ſubmit to many other degrading circumſtances. Theſe ſervile diſtinctions, with a recollection how injurious they were to his former feelings, Mr. Milner has alſo aboliſhed.

A ſhort time after he became preſident of Queen's, he took out his doctor's degree, and was preſented with the deanry of Carliſle. It is his cuſtom to viſit this place regularly every year, but he ſeldom reſides there long. Hull, before the deceaſe of his brother, (for whom he entertained a high regard, but called, on account of his methodiſm, his *ſtrange brother*,) was the moſt favourite place of his reſidence. His lodgings were a complete work-ſhop, filled with all kinds of carpenter's and turner's inſtruments. He was accuſtomed here to relax his mind daily from the fatigues of ſtudy, by ſome manual labour. His lathe and appendages for turning were extremely curious, and coſt him no leſs than one hundred and forty guineas.

guineas. He had alſo a very curious machine, partly of his own invention, which formed and poliſhed at the ſame time, with the utmoſt poſſible exactneſs, watch-wheels of every deſcription.

A celebrated moraliſt of the preſent day maintains, that manual labour is one great ſource of happineſs. It is evident that we cannot bear, without injury, ſo rany long time, intenſe and uninterrupted thought; it is equally clear, that, when the mind, without any object of purſuit, is left to its own ſpontaneous ſenſibilities, it turns either to the future or the paſt; and, as we are either melancholy or gay, ſo is the proſpect before us. This ſtate, therefore, of ſenſibility, exerciſing the mind, not according to the real exiſtence of things, but to their accidental impreſſion, is ſeldom profitable; beſides this, it can be no relief to a mind already wearied with deep thinking. Something is wanted for this purpoſe, which gently exerciſes the mental powers, on ſome corporeal movement. Manual labour, requiring juſt dexterity enough to abſtract the mind from its accuſtomed operations, ſeems beſt to anſwer this end. Let it not, therefore, be a matter of ſurpriſe or ridicule, that a man, of enlarged underſtanding, as in the preſent inſtance, ſhould ſtoop for amuſement to the drudgery of mechanical employment. It is not even enough to call Uncle Toby's whims inoffenſive, they were really uſeful; and our hobbies, whatever they be, are founded in nature, and indiſpenſable to our happineſs.

The literary productions of Dr. Milner are but few; but, as they bear the ſtamp of genius, they have procured him much reputation, and a fellowſhip in the Royal Society. They conſiſt of communications to that reſpectable body; the firſt of which is dated 16th February, 1778, concerning the communication of motion by impact and gravity. Another paper treats of the limits of algebraical equations, and contains a general demonſtration of Des *Cartes' rule for* finding the number of affirmative and negative

negative roots: this is dated February 26th. In the following June, we find another communication on the preceſſion of the equinoxes.

Dr. Milner, as a chemiſt, ranks very high. The French are ſaid to have availed themſelves of his diſcovery concerning the compoſition of nitre, which has enabled them to ſupply, without foreign aſſiſtance, the vaſt conſumption of that article, uſed in the manufacture of gunpowder.

On the death of Dr. Waring, Dr. Milner, in 1798, was made Lucaſian profeſſor of mathematics, to which is annexed a ſalary of 100*l.* a year. Thus, we ſee, with no other advantages, but thoſe of ability and merit, a perſon riſing from the obſcureſt rank of life, and, together with all his other literary diſtinctions, filling even the chair of the immortal Newton. Deſert, crowned with ſucceſs, muſt, to every generous mind, afford a high degree of ſatisfaction; while, at the ſame time, it holds out a foſtering encouragement to thoſe ſeeds of genius which otherwiſe might lie dormant in the boſom of indigence and obſcurity. Although a conſiderable portion of the life of Dr. Milner was employed in the laborious occupation of a mechanic, yet, untinctured with any former habits, his manners and ſentiments eminently diſplay the refined taſte of the ſcholar and the gentleman; ſo that the very diſadvantages, under which he laboured in the former part of his life, only ſo much the more enhance our admiration of his preſent attainments.

Urit enim fulgore ſuo.

THOMAS LEWIS O'BEIRNE, D. D.

BISHOP OF MEATH.

THE ſubject of this Memoir furniſhes an additional name to grace the catalogue of thoſe truly illuſtrious characters, who, by their private and public virtues, have triumphed over every oppoſition, and raiſed themſelves to honourable eminence in ſociety.

occaſion has been often mentioned as the effuſion of a mind animated with the pureſt ſentiments of charity and brotherly love, and it has been juſtly praiſed as a compoſition remarkable for dignified and pathetic eloquence.

On his return from America, when the conduct of Lord Howe, and more particularly that of his brother Sir William Howe, with reſpect to the direction and execution of military operations, became the ſubject of general animadverſion and parliamentary enquiry, and was boldly cenſured in newſpapers and pamphlets ſuppoſed to be written by perſons in high credit and confidence with miniſtry; Dr. O'Beirne came forward in defence of his friends and patrons, (for, he was alſo much eſteemed by Sir William,) and publiſhed a pamphlet in vindication of them, that had an extenſive circulation, and was extolled by the adherents of the general and admiral.

His introduction to the leading members of Oppoſition happened in the year 1779, through the medium of Lord Howe and Sir William, who were received with open arms by the opponents of miniſtry, as they fondly indulged in the hope that they ſhould, from ſuch a connection, find grounds ſufficient for condemning the meaſures of adminiſtration, and transferring to themſelves the reins of power. Dr. O'Beirne was, after a ſhort time, particularly countenanced by the Duke of Portland, who frequently expreſſed, without reſerve, the ſatisfaction he derived from the pleaſant and inſtructive converſation of his new acquaintance.

In order to recommend himſelf more effectually to that party, he wrote (as it was ſaid) a ſpirited pamphlet in their favour, called "The Gleam of Comfort," which was highly applauded by the writers and friends of Oppoſition, and was generally allowed to poſſeſs no inconſiderable degree of merit. In March, 1782, when the Rockingham party came into power, he accompanied the Duke of Portland, then his avowed patron, and appointed lord-

lieutenant

lieutenant of Ireland, to that country as his private ſecretary. He was alſo nominated one of his chaplains. But it unfortunately happened that his Grace had not, from the ſhort duration of his government, which did not laſt quite four months, any opportunity of providing, as he wiſhed, for his reverend *protégé*.

An anecdote related of Dr. O'Beirne, during his reſidence in Ireland, as private ſecretary to the lord-lieutenant, and with the authenticity of which we have good reaſons to be ſatisfied, will more fully lay open the ſecret receſſes of his heart than a thouſand volumes written by panegyriſts, whoſe only documents are the actions of his public life. One of his oldeſt acquaintances, of the name of Hagarty, who had been, for many years, employed in the Exciſe, was ſuperannuated, and obliged to retire, with a large family, on the miſerable ſalary of 10l. per annum. He had heard of the Doctor's preferment, and was adviſed to ſolicit his intereſt. Though he at firſt declined the advice, from motives of deſpair or baſhfulneſs, neceſſity at length ſilenced his ſcruples, and he ſent a letter to the ſecretary. Dr. O'Beirne immediately diſpatched a meſſenger for him, received him in the moſt friendly manner, and aſſured him, "that, though he had never applied to the lord-lieutenant for a favour, he would do ſo on the preſent occaſion, both on account of their former acquaintance, and the diſtreſſes to which a numerous and helpleſs family was expoſed. If he ſucceeded, Hagarty ſhould of courſe be re-placed on the eſtabliſhment; if not, he would cheerfully allow him a yearly ſum out of his private purſe equal to that which he received when in full employment." It is almoſt needleſs to add that he did ſucceed, and that poor Hagarty and his family were reſcued from ruin.

The death of the Marquis of Rockingham having led to the diſſolution of the adminiſtration formed under his auſpices, the Duke of Portland was ſucceeded in the

government of Ireland by the Marquis of Buckingham, then Earl Temple, in July, 1782, and returned to London with his private ſecretary and chaplain. His Grace, now perfectly convinced, from his experience in Iriſh affairs, of the Doctor's talents for political buſineſs, employed his pen, and had recourſe to his advice, on almoſt every important occaſion. He was initiated in all the myſteries of Oppoſition, and aſſiſted at ſeveral ſecret conferences held by its leaders. He became peculiarly attached to Mr. Fox, and we are enabled to ſtate, that his admiration of that great ſtateſman's powers and virtues has not been diminiſhed by the extraordinary changes which have ſince appeared to take place in political ſentiment.

The idea of the ever-memorable coalition was then ſuggeſted as the only certain mode of hurling from the helm of power rivals, who had dared to intercept and monopolize the fruits of ſo many painful, but ſucceſsful, labours; who had preſumed to appropriate to themſelves the ſpoils of that political *Troy*, which had only fallen after a deſperate ſiege of ten years, and in the breaches of which *they* had not ventured to expoſe themſelves, until a triumphant entrance was no longer doubtful. It was accordingly agreed to, and ſucceeded. But the victory was tranſient; and even the moment of exultation was darkened with prognoſtics of ſpeedy diſappointment and defeat.

When the Duke of Portland was raiſed to the important office of firſt lord of the Treaſury, in April, 1783, he appointed Dr. O'Beirne his private ſecretary. He performed the duties of the ſituation with great induſtry for upwards of eight months, when the coalition was, in its turn, diveſted of authority, and compelled to retire. He had not, however, been neglected by his patron; for, on the day previous to the nomination of Mr. Pitt as firſt lord of the Treaſury, he was put into poſſeſſion of two livings ſituated in Northumberland and Cumberland, valued

at

at nearly 700l. a year, which were in the gift of government. The manner in which theſe livings were conferred on him, both by the zealous interference of his noble patron, and the prompt aſſiſtance of a noble lord now very high in legal honours, ſerved to inſpire him with additional ardour in ſupport of his political friends, and he carried his gratitude and enthuſiaſm ſo far as to appear the public attendant of "*the man of the people.*" When Mr. Fox's carriage was drawn by the populace into the court of Devonſhire-houſe, the Duke of Norfolk was ſeated on the box, and Colonel North with Dr. O'Beirne thought themſelves honoured in ſtanding behind it as inferior, but neceſſary, figures, to complete the group of the patriotic pageant.

The French revolution produced a revolution of political doctrine in the mind of the Duke of Portland, and the ideas of the ex-ſecretary continued to revolve in coincidence with thoſe of his noble patron. "The Gleam of Comfort," which Dr. O'Beirne had viewed ſome years at a diſtance, was now brightening into meridian luſtre, and his days of labour and nights of contemplation were ſoon to be rewarded with the honours of epiſcopacy. He accompanied Earl Fitzwilliam to Ireland, as his firſt chaplain, and was made Biſhop of Oſſory. He has been ſince tranſlated, on the death of the Honourable Dr. Maxwell, to the ſee of Meath, valued at 5,000l. per annum.

Biſhop O'Beirne was among the moſt active and zealous of thoſe who ſupported the meaſures and promoted the principles of the Fitzwilliam adminiſtration. He was particularly ſo in furtherance of what ſeemed to be the primary object of the viceroy, the emancipation, as it was called, of the Catholics; for, though Biſhop O'Beirne is a convert to the faith of Proteſtantiſm, he is not at all actuated by that outrageous zeal againſt the faith which he has renounced, which generally marks the proſelyte. He wrote, himſelf, in furtherance of that meaſure. When

Lord Fitzwilliam was removed from office, and the character and meaſures of his adminiſtration came to be canvaſſed with rather a ſevere and acrimonious ſpirit in the Iriſh Houſe of Peers, Biſhop O'Beirne ſtood forward with honeſt warmth and diſtinguiſhed ability in defence of his abſent, and, as he conceived, injured, patron. His ſpeech in the Houſe of Lords, on that occaſion, was reckoned among the beſt which have been delivered in that aſſembly.

Whatever difference of opinion may exiſt with reſpect to his political life, his exemplary conduct in diſcharging the ſacred functions of his preſent dignified office has united every ſentiment in his favour. He delivered a charge to the clergy of his dioceſs of Oſſory, which is, perhaps, unexampled in point of paſtoral ſimplicity and apoſtolic doctrine. He candidly admitted the obſcurity of his birth, and made a ſolemn declaration, that, in the eccleſiaſtical promotions, which were at his diſpoſal, he ſhould be influenced by the merits of the candidates only. He inſtituted monthly lectures, on topics of religious controverſy and ſubjects ſelected from the Hiſtory of the Church, while chapters from the New Teſtament were occaſionally tranſlated, and the moſt approved commentators and expoſitors were carefully conſulted. It was not uncommon, during theſe lectures, to ſee them attended by clergymen, from a diſtance of twenty or thirty miles, who probably had not, for twenty or thirty years, looked into the original text. His houſe and table were always open to them, particularly to thoſe of the inferior order; and he has never been reproached with neglecting any opportunity to reward the claims of merit, however deſtitute of recommendation.

As a preacher, Dr. O'Beirne ranks in the firſt claſs. His ſermons ſeldom relate to the thorny points of controverſial theology, which are more calculated to confound than to enlighten. He is generally ſatisfied with expatiating

ing on the grand and eſſential doctrines of Chriſtianity, and his diction is perſpicuous, animated, and nervous. He is occaſionally ſublime, frequently pathetic, and always intelligible to his auditors. Though gifted with conſiderable powers of imagination, he ſtudiouſly checks them, when they ſeem to interfere in the pure fervency of devotion. He appears to have made it his great object,

> " To diſcipline his fancy, to command
> The heart; and, by familiar accents, move
> The Chriſtian ſoul."———

The conduct of his lordſhip, in private life, has been ever diſtinguiſhed for that liberality of heart and urbanity of manners which evince a juſt knowledge of the duties of ſociety. Several of his ſermons have been publiſhed.

His perſon is of the middle ſize, ſlight, and indicating an age of about ſixty years. His face is thin, and expreſſive of the qualities which form his character.

THE REV. WILLIAM FARISH

WAS ſon to a clergyman of Carliſle; at the grammar-ſchool of which place he was educated, previouſly to his removal to the univerſity. He did not display, in this early part of life, any of that ability which afterwards marked his progreſs in mathematical ſcience. Though naturally endowed with a clear diſcriminating mind and capacious memory, yet, whether from want of any peculiar bent of genius, or the circumſtance of his ſtudies being more particularly adapted to thoſe of Cambridge, he was never remarkable for any great proficiency in claſſical knowledge.

From

From this, it would not be proper to infer, that he did not poſſeſs a mind ſuſceptible of thoſe fine impreſſions, which the charms of compoſition are calculated to produce. Taſte, for any particular branch of ſtudy, is partly natural and partly acquired. The nice diſcrimination of beauty, on which it is founded, is ſoon injured by neglect; and what we ceaſe to cultivate loſes, in time, the power to pleaſe. This accounts for that indifference with which Mr. Fariſh paſſed through the flowery regions of claſſical literature. His mind was chiefly converſant with diſtinct and accurate ideas, not exerciſed on ſentiments and feelings, but on the number, weight, extent, and capacity, of things. This ſcience, in proportion as he comprehended it, became the object of his peculiar taſte; and appeared to exceed all others, as much in importance, as it did in clear and demonſtrative evidence: the indiſtinct beauty, therefore, and undefined grace, of the Muſes, were ever after thrown aſide, or but partially attended to by him.

With this ſtrong bias to mathematics, Mr. Fariſh, at the age of ſixteen, entered ſizer at Magdalen-College, Cambridge, and, during his under-graduateſhip, was an example of ſubordination, ſobriety, and cloſe application to his ſtudies, to all his fellow-collegians.

No perſon perhaps is always conſiſtent with himſelf; ſometimes the timid are bold, and the bold timid. When Mr. Fariſh took his bachelor's degree, owing to his modeſt unaſſuming manner, he was in danger of being placed in a ſituation below his merit. Perceiving this, he challenged the whole ſenate-houſe to a trial of mathematical ſkill; and, by this ſpirited but unuſual expedient, he attained the firſt honour of his year,—that of being *ſenior wrangler*.

When an under-graduate, to preſerve himſelf free from every thing which might ſeduce his mind from ſtudy

ſtudy, it was Mr. Fariſh's uniform practice never to aſſociate familiarly with the gay, the idle, or diſſolute. His companions were men of ſtudious habits like his own; and who, like himſelf, have ſince arrived at reſpectability and preferment. This is the beſt proof that can be given of the ſoundneſs of his early judgment.

In the ſucceſs and advancement of a whole ſociety of young men, as in the inſtance before us, is ſeen the importance of good and conſtitutional principles; their effects are not arbitrary, but uniform; not caſual, but certain. Among his college-friends were numbered, Dr. Jowett, the preſent profeſſor of laws, remarkable, as well for his deep reſearches in Roman and Engliſh juriſprudence, as for the purity of his Latin diction; alſo the Rev. Mr. Miles Atkinſon, of Leeds, reſpectable, as the founder of an inſtitution for gratuitouſly educating young men of promiſing abilities at both our univerſities; and the Rev. Mr. Venn, the preſent learned and worthy rector of Clapham.

Theſe, with a few others, formed a kind of defenſive league againſt ſurrounding diſſipation; and for that reaſon were branded with the name of Methodiſts. Their future lives, however, have borne teſtimony to the ſincerity of their intentions, and ſtamped their characters with the ſeal of virtuous and perſiſtive conſtancy.

A ſhort time after taking his degree, Mr. Fariſh was choſen fellow and tutor of his college. For the claſſical part of education he choſe an aſſiſtant. The lectures in mathematics he conducted in a manner which has done credit to himſelf, and conſiderably raiſed the reputation of the college; ſince its numbers have, of late years, conſiderably increaſed.

Few perſons are more conſcientious in the diſcharge of their duty than Mr. Fariſh. This, thoſe who are under his

his care know to their coſt, as it oppoſes a conſiderable barrier to their favourite propenſities. They are apt to think him arbitrary, therefore, where he has only exerciſed a neceſſary and temperate authority; but ſuch an opinion muſt be taken with conſiderable limitation, ſince the party aggrieved can ſeldom make an impartial judgment.

This high ſenſe of duty, by which the conduct of Mr. Fariſh is regulated, has been a misfortune to many. When proctor, the diſcipline of the univerſity was kept unuſually ſtrict. Once, in his accuſtomed nightly rounds with his attendants, he obſerved three gownſmen enter one of thoſe houſes of illicit accommodation, whoſe doors, like thoſe of Dis,

Noctes atque dies patent.

An authoritative rap ſoon announced the arrival of the proctor. To eſcape was impoſſible; for, the beſieger had placed his men at every avenue leading to the building. An out-houſe ſeemed to offer the beſt ſecurity to the priſoners, and to this they fled for ſecurity. In the mean time the proctor entered: he examined and threatened, but all in vain;—nobody had been there. Unwilling, however, to give up the teſtimony of his ſenſes, in conformity to the wiſhes of thoſe, whom he deemed parties concerned in the buſineſs, he continued his ſearch, till at laſt he arrived at the out-houſe. A tub in one corner, and a recent inundation of water, created ſuſpicion. The proctor no ſooner began to reſtore it to its natural poſition, than the ſucceſſor to its former contents appeared underneath, with all his dripping "honours thick about him." But this, to ſpeak mathematically, explained only one part of the problem; two other quantities were ſtill wanting; and the preſent inveſtigator

tor was the fitteſt perſon in the world to find them out. Theſe were at length diſcovered rooſting quietly, as two fowls at midnight, on a beam over his head. This, in the opinion of Mr. Fariſh, was no ſmall miſdemeanor: and, as he was one on whom the pleas of any juvenile indiſcretion and fellow-feeling of his own could not operate, the offenders had nothing to expect from him, in the way of mitigated puniſhment. They were convened before the vice-chancellor, and a day was appointed, when they muſt either acknowledge their offence in full ſenate, and aſk forgiveneſs, or be expelled the univerſity. This is mentioned, not to blame, but to do honour to, Mr. Fariſh, as a ſtrict diſciplinarian in a place, where both thoſe in *ſtatu dominanti et pupillari* are not remarkable for unexceptionable conduct.

Mr. Fariſh never committed himſelf before the public as an author; but has choſen his path rather along the "ſequeſtered vale" of ſcience. Few perſons, however, are better known, or more reſpected for their talents. In an age when improvement is extremely difficult, even in the ſlighteſt thing, Mr. Fariſh has ſtruck out a new road to knowledge, equally bold and intereſting. For many years, during the long vacation at Cambridge, it has been his cuſtom to travel into every part of the kingdom, where any thing curious was to be found; to viſit the work-ſhops of artificers; to deſcend into mines; to obſerve the improvements of the arts; and to take models of every thing valuable in machinery. His collection of this kind, thus made with aſtoniſhing labour and expenſe, is the epitome of every thing which ſupports the commercial conſequence, and miniſters to the convenience and luxury, of this country. Cotton-mills, looms, poliſhing machines, ſteam-engines, ſawing-mills, and contrivances of every kind, to facilitate labour, here in miniature, are capable of performing their ſeveral move-

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ments with all the exactitude of their originals. Mr. Fariſh gives public lectures, annually, on theſe, in Cambridge, to the ſtudents of the ſeveral colleges, who not only find them very inſtructive, but amuſing alſo: they are in general, therefore, very well attended. In theſe lectures, the operations of the machines are not only deſcribed, but actually brought into effect. Raw materials, of every kind, are brought before his pupils, and undergo, with ſurpriſing ſpeed and ingenuity, every ordeal of workmanſhip, till they arrive to their ultimate perfection. It is not unuſual to ſee, in the courſe of one lecture, gunpowder, hats, vaſes, and various other things, ſtart into exiſtence from their conſtituent elements; ſo that, while an ordinary perſon, in the courſe of his life, becomes acquainted with one trade, Mr. Fariſh, in the courſe of a few years, has made himſelf maſter of almoſt every trade and manufacture in the kingdom. For univerſality, therefore, of knowledge, in this way, he ſtands unrivalled.

This undertaking was the ſpeculation of an individual; and it is to be wiſhed, his endeavours may be crowned with that ſucceſs, which they ſo richly deſerve. This can never be done by the profits of the lectures, let them be ever ſo well attended. As they are highly pleaſing, and inſtruct our future magiſtrates and legiſlators in all the detail of manufactural œconomy, without the expenſe and fatigue of travelling; and as this knowledge may operate as well to the preſervation, as future improvement, of the arts, would it not be a becoming public retribution to the ingenious inſtitutor, for the univerſity to purchaſe his collection at a liberal price, and create a mechanical profeſſorſhip, with a good ſalary, the firſt chair of which Mr. Fariſh himſelf ſhould fill?—Arts and uſeful inventions have ariſen and diſappeared; but, while a public conſervatory of theſe things exiſts, the danger of

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ſuch an accident is prevented, and the *ſtatus quo* of improvement effectually preſerved.

The plan of theſe lectures may not have been originally Mr. Fariſh's, but the execution certainly is. Biſhop Watſon, at the end of his chemical works, firſt ſtarted the idea.

The only improvement that Mr. Farjſh ſeems to have made in mechanics is a certain curve in the form of cogs, which enables a ſyſtem of wheels to work with the leaſt poſſible friction. A mill has been conſtructed in the north of England on this plan, and found to anſwer as well in practice as it promiſed in theory.

In the year 1792, Mr. Fariſh ſtood candidate for the profeſſorſhip of natural and experimental philoſophy; but it was gained by Mr. Woïleſton. In 1794, he was made profeſſor of chemiſtry. He is, beſide, preſident of Magdalen-College, and rector of Clifton, in Northamptonſhire. Though his avocations are very numerous, yet he does not think himſelf thereby exempted from the particular duties of his clerical profeſſion; he therefore holds a curacy, within a few miles of Cambridge, which he regularly ſupplies every Sunday.

The moſt intricate parts of mathematics are become ſo familiar to Mr. Fariſh, that he reads them for his amuſement. He has been known, even by a ſlight inſpection, to detect errors in a problem of conſiderable perplexity and length, prepared for the ſenate-houſe by the united care of the other examiners.

The late Dr. Waring was ſo ſenſible of his profound knowledge, that he paid but an ill compliment to the other members of the univerſity, by ſaying, "that nobody underſtood his writings but Mr. Fariſh."

His modeſty, however, ſuperſedes his merit.—At a learned diſcuſſion which took place among ſome of the heads of Cambridge, they all ſpoke except Mr. Fariſh. One of the company, much celebrated for his wit and

learning,

learning, at length ſaid, "We have been talking for this hour in vain; and Fariſh, who knows more about the matter than all of us put together, has not uttered a word." In promiſcuous company, taciturnity is certainly a ſtriking feature in Mr. Fariſh's character. Every thing he ſays ſeems to be the reſult of deep thought, and not the ſpontaneous flow of ſocial and unſuſpecting confidence. Among his intimates, however, he relaxes, it is ſaid, into the facetious and agreeable companion. Mechaniſm, topography, trade, and manufactures, are his favourite topics of converſation. Having ſpent the chief part of his life in a college, naturalized to authority on one hand, and ſubmiſſion on the other, his manners, though mild, ſtill retain a peculiarity, which diſtinguiſh them from eaſy and polite equality. Without any reciprocity of his own, he is acquainted with the methods of diving into the opinions of others; and, on all occaſions, has approved himſelf a watchful guardian of the intereſts of our preſent eſtabliſhments. S. K.

SIR FRANCIS BOURGEOIS, R. A.

THIS ingenious artiſt is deſcended from a family of great reſpectability at Berne, in Switzerland, where many of his anceſtors filled offices of conſiderable truſt in the ſtate.

He was born in London in the year 1756, and was, at an early age, deſtined by his father to the profeſſion of arms, in conſequence of the friendſhip entertained for the family by the late Lord Heathfield, who had promiſed to procure a commiſſion in the army for the ſon.

The young mind of our artiſt was now occupied with ideas of martial glory, and he conſtantly attended military evolutions and reviews. Every inducement to alter the natural bias of his talents proved ineffectual; for, having

having been inſtructed, while a child, in ſome of the rudiments of painting by a Mr. Cervant, a foreigner of inconſiderable merit as a painter of horſes, he paid more attention to the imitative art, and exerted himſelf more aſſiduouſly to repreſent with his pencil the manœuvres he beheld, than to acquire a knowledge of the tactical principles on which they were conducted. About this time he attended almoſt daily the celebrated riding-academy of Mr. Angelo, in Soho-Square, and took peculiar delight in drawing horſes in their various attitudes.

Some of his juvenile eſſays were ſeen and praiſed by Sir Joſhua Reynolds, and Mr. Gainſborough; and, encouraged by their approbation, he relinquiſhed all thoughts of the military profeſſion, and entirely devoted himſelf to the cultivation of an art to which the impulſe of genius irreſiſtibly directed his powers. Loutherbourg, who admired his early promiſe of future excellence, readily conſented to take him under his tuition. But he did not remain with that able maſter a longer time than was neceſſary to acquire a correct knowledge of the true principles of painting, and then determined to indulge his purſuits in the great ſchool of nature, and to ſtudy the works of the moſt eminent maſters. From the reſpectability of his connections, he experienced no difficulty in gaining admiſſion to the beſt collections in this country; and in the late Marſhal Conway, whoſe taſte as a *connoiſſeur*, and whoſe amiable qualities as a member of private ſociety, will be long remembered, he found a ſincere friend and a liberal patron.

Before he attained the age of twenty, he had acquired no mean reputation by his landſcapes and ſea-pieces, and ſome of them are now allowed places in cabinets, diſtinguiſhed for elegance of ſelection. In 1776, Sir Francis travelled through the Low Countries, France, and Italy, and ſtudied with indefatigable attention the various beauties that grace the productions of different maſters and differ-

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ent ages. The facility with which he ſpoke ſeveral modern languages, particularly the French and Italian, was of peculiar ſervice to him in his tour, and procured him an eaſy introduction to the moſt precious collections of the fine arts on the continent.

On his return, he continued to proſecute his ſtudies with increaſed ardour and reputation, and his exhibitions in the Royal Academy conſiderably enlarged the circle of his friends and admirers.

About this time, the Prince Primate, brother to the amiable and unfortunate Staniſlaus Auguſtus, king of Poland, came to reſide for a few months in this country, and was ſo captivated with the works of our artiſt, that he frequently paſſed whole mornings in his painting-room. His Highneſs was alſo very much gratified with the engaging manners and pleaſing converſation of Sir Francis, and conſtantly honoured him with invitations to his ſelect parties. The Prince made him the moſt liberal offers to induce him to go to Poland, but they were as gratefully acknowledged as they were politely declined.

He was, in 1791, appointed painter to the King of Poland, who alſo conferred on him the honours of knighthood of the Order of MERIT; and, having been on that occaſion introduced at our court to their Majeſties, the King was pleaſed to confirm the title.

In 1792, he was elected a member of the Royal Academy, without any ſolicitation on his part; and, in 1794, was appointed landſcape-painter to his Majeſty.

The works of Sir Francis are numerous, and many of them not only grace ſeveral of the principal collections in this country, but have found their way into ſome diſtinguiſhed cabinets on the continent. His facility in the execution of any ſubject, which he conceives, has been long a matter of ſurpriſe, and the happy variety of tints and glow of colouring with which his chief productions

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are embelliſhed, evidently ſhew that his labour is "the "labour of love, not the taſk of the hireling." The compoſition of his pictures is generally in ſtrict conformity to nature, and he is ſurpaſſed by few in his juſt application of the principles of perſpective, and in the judicious grouping of his figures.

It is, however, to be lamented, that, in ſome of his pieces, a haſtineſs of finiſhing is obſervable; and his admirers have often regretted, that, capable as he is of making a diſtinguiſhed figure in the ſuperior departments of hiſtorical painting, he has not allowed his powers to take that extenſive range for which they ſeem ſufficiently qualified.

The manners of Sir Francis are highly attractive. His converſation affords pleaſure and inſtruction, and the readineſs with which he has, on all occaſions, exerted his intereſt in favour of riſing genius or diſtreſſed merit, is an honourable teſtimony of the liberality of his mind.

N.

DUKE OF RICHMOND.

THE Duke of Richmond was born on the 22d of February, 1735; he ſucceeded his father in titles and eſtate the 8th of Auguſt, 1750, and took his ſeat in the Houſe of Lords in 1756. His Grace attached himſelf to the Whig intereſt, which at that period was headed by the firſt Duke of Newcaſtle, but took no active part in the political conteſts of the latter part of the reign of George the Second.

At the commencement of the preſent reign, he was colonel of the 72d regiment of foot, and was eſteemed a riſing military character, having received the particular thanks of Prince Ferdinand of Brunſwick for his conduct and intrepidity at the battle of Minden. He appears, however,

however, to have taken an early diſguſt to the political ſyſtem that commenced with the adminiſtration of Lord Bute. In 1763, he may be ſaid to have entered upon his political career, when he was diſtinguiſhed as a bold and dignified ſpeaker in the Houſe of Peers againſt the meaſures of Lord Bute and his ſucceſſor Mr. George Grenville. In 1765, the Tory ſyſtem experienced a complete overthrow, and the ſatellites of Lord Bute gave way to the Whigs, headed by their leader, Lord Rockingham, under whoſe auſpices the Stamp-Act was repealed, the tranquillity and confidence of America reſtored, and the principles of government (which had been introduced at the Revolution, and had raiſed the country to ſuch a height of ſplendor and greatneſs in the ſucceeding reigns) apparently re-eſtabliſhed. In this adminiſtration, the Duke of Richmond held the office of ſecretary of ſtate, the duties of which he diſcharged with ability and general approbation. In little more than a year, this adminiſtration gave way to a motley and diſcordant group of Whigs and Tories, the latter of whom were accuſed of acting under the *ſecret influence* of the favourite Lord Bute, who had not courage to avow himſelf any longer the adviſer of meaſures, to the execution of which a conſiderable degree of reſponſibility was neceſſarily annexed. The Duke of Grafton, though for a ſhort time the oſtenſible leader of the new adminiſtration, ſoon ſurrendered his ſituation to Lord North, who perſevered in the ſyſtem of favouritiſm till he involved the country in a war with France, Spain, and Holland; loſt America, and doubled the debt of the nation. During the whole of this momentous interval, from 1767 to 1782, the Duke of Richmond was one of the moſt active opponents of all thoſe thoſe meaſures which tended to involve his country in ruin. He was cloſely united with the Rockingham party, but he went beyond moſt of the Whigs in his zeal for the principles of civil and political liberty.

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In 1781, he introduced into parliament a project for an annual and equal repreſentation of the people, which has been admired and applauded by many of the wiſeſt and moſt virtuous characters of the country.

His plan was to make the election of the repreſentatives of the people annual, and the right of voting univerſal.

The kingdom of Great Britain was to be divided into five hundred diſtricts; each diſtrict to contain an equal population, and to chooſe one member.

The election to begin and end in one day.

The people to be regiſtered in each diſtrict three months before the election, with their profeſſion, trade, or employment, and the ſtreet or place of their abode.

To give their votes in the pariſh-church of their reſidence before the church-wardens, who were to cloſe the poll at the ſetting of the ſun on the day the election was to commence, and deliver the ſame, perſonally, to the ſheriff of the diſtrict, who was to ſum up the whole on that day ſe'nnight, at the moſt central town of the diſtrict, and make his return of the perſon who had a majority of the ſuffrages of the people.

Every male perſon in the country, who had attained the age of twenty-one years, (criminals and inſane perſons only excepted,) to have a vote in the election of the repreſentatives of the people.

At this time his Grace was at the head of the Conſtitutional Society, a member of the committees of the county of Suſſex and city of Weſtminſter, appointed to effect a parliamentary reform, and one of the nine delegates elected by the latter body to meet an equal number of delegates from each of the other committees conſtituted for the ſame purpoſe, to form a convention of the whole, in order to purſue the moſt effectual means for carrying this popular meaſure into effect.

At the aſſembly of the delegates, the Duke of Richmond was unanimouſly choſen preſident. They denominated themſelves "the Convention of Delegates from the reſpective Committees conſtituted for obtaining a Reform in the State of the Repreſentation of the People in Parliament," and diſplayed the moſt ardent and commendable zeal in the proſecution of an object ſo truly important.

Upon the fall of Lord North from power, and the overthrow of the Tory ſyſtem in April, 1782, the Marquis of Rockingham and the Whigs returned into office, and the Duke of Richmond was appointed maſter-general of the Ordnance, and received the honour of the Garter. This adminiſtration was divided and annihilated in little more than three months after its commencement, in conſequence of the unfortunate death of its leader. The Marquis of Lanſdown was appointed firſt lord of the Treaſury, and all the cabinet-miniſters reſigned, except the Duke of Richmond, Duke of Grafton, and General Conway. The Whigs had pledged themſelves to the people to effect two grand meaſures,—a parliamentary reform and the concluſion of peace with America. In vain did the new adminiſtration profeſs the ſame principle and promiſe to purſue the ſame meaſures. The greateſt part of the Rockingham party, compriſing Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke, Mr. Sheridan, the Duke of Portland, Lord Fitzwilliam, the Cavendiſh family, Mr. Windham, Lord Keppel, and all the leaders, formed a coalition with Lord North and the diſcarded adminiſtration, and, compoſing a conſiderable majority in the two Houſes of Parliament, at the opening of the enſuing ſeſſion, compelled the Marquis of Lanſdown to reſign. Upon this memorable occaſion, the Duke of Richmond took the lead in a new Oppoſition with the Marquis of Lanſdown, Mr. Pitt, the Earl of Liverpool, (then Mr. Charles Jenkinſon,) and Mr. Dundas; a ſtill more heterogeneous and diſcordant combination than the party they oppoſed. In leſs than

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ten months, however, this new party, with the aſſiſtance of the court-influence, and from the unpopularity of the coalition, united in themſelves all the efficient powers of government, which they have held ever ſince, while the Duke of Richmond reſumed his place at the head of the Ordnance. The great deſideratum of a reform in parliament was ſtill conſidered as ſo far from being abandoned, that Mr. Pitt, the new miniſter, became its champion, and brought it forward three ſucceſſive years in the Houſe of Commons. Even Mr. Dundas was converted to its merits, and his name is to be found among the minority who divided in its favour. Thus ſupported by eloquence and power in parliament, and by the united voice of the country out of doors, it will aſtoniſh thoſe who are not complete maſters of the ſubject, how a meaſure of ſuch univerſal popularity, ſo evidently calculated to harmonize the people, and make them adore their conſtitution and government, ſhould have ſo repeatedly failed of ſucceſs.

The Duke of Richmond, upon introducing his Reform-Bill in the Houſe of Lords, declared, that "his reaſons in favour of a parliamentary reform were formed on the experience of twenty-ſix years, which, whether *in or out of government*, had equally convinced him, that the reſtoration of a genuine Houſe of Commons, by a renovation of the rights of the people, was the only remedy againſt that ſyſtem of corruption which had brought the nation to diſgrace and poverty, and threatened it with the loſs of liberty." He continued to exert himſelf as the moſt ſtrenuous ſupporter of the meaſure, till the year 1784, when the meetings of the county and town committees were diſcontinued, the correſpondence between them ceaſed, and the aſſembly or convention of delegates, of which the Duke was preſident, became inſenſibly annihilated.

His Grace's letters, to the volunteers of Ireland, are in the hands of moſt people. His ſtyle of writing and

ſpeaking is clear, manly, and full of intelligence. As a politician and a ſtateſman, few men are ſo well informed. As a military character, his ſyſtem of fortification has been much ridiculed; but the ſevereſt reproach that has been aimed at his public character has been that of apoſtaſy from his public and avowed principles. This reproach, however, candor obliges us to remark, has never been ſatisfactorily ſubſtantiated.

In 1795, his Grace reſigned the office of maſter-general of the Ordnance, and received the command of the royal regiment of Horſe-Guards, blue; and has ſince obtained the biſhopric of Chicheſter for his friend and domeſtic chaplain Dr. Buckner. His Grace is lord-lieutenant and cuſtos rotulorum of the county of Suſſex, a field-marſhal, high ſteward of Chicheſter, colonel of the Suſſex militia, and fellow of the Royal Society.

The Duke of Richmond is much attached to literary purſuits, and was diſtinguiſhed, particularly during his intimacy with the late Field-Marſhal Conway, for his patronage of the fine arts. With his receſſion from political diſcuſſion, a receſſion from every kind of activity as a public character ſeems to have taken place, and he now lives a retired life principally at Goodwood. His character in private life is truly reſpectable. As a ſincere friend, an affectionate brother, and a fond relative, zealous to promote the intereſt of every branch of his family, his Grace has ſeldom been ſurpaſſed. C.

MRS. ABINGTON.

IF to have enriched "the public ſtock of harmleſs pleaſure," and to have ſoothed the cares of life by the fleeting effuſions of mimic gaiety, merit honourable notice, the ſubject of the preſent biographical ſketch is not without juſt claims to grateful mention and general praiſe.

Mrs.

Mrs. Abington, whoſe maiden-name was Barton, made her *début* in the Haymarket-Theatre under the management of the celebrated Theophilus Cibber, who, in 1752, obtained a licenſe from the lord-chamberlain to perform plays at that houſe. She had not attained her ſeventeeth year, when, encouraged by the high opinion entertained of her talents by the manager and ſeveral judicious critics, who had attended her rehearſals in private, ſhe was induced to offer herſelf as a candidate for public favour in the character of Miranda in the comedy of the Buſy Body. Her ſucceſs was adequate to the moſt ſanguine expectations of her friends, and ſhe was afterwards engaged in the Bath company, then under the direction of that excellent comedian, Mr. King, now of Drury-Lane Theatre, who was the acting-manager. At the end of the following ſummer, ſhe was ſeen on the Richmond ſtage, in one of her principal characters, by Mr. Lacy, one of the patentees of Old Drury, who immediately engaged her for the winter-ſeaſon. Her firſt part was Lady Pliant, and ſhe was received with unbounded applauſe. Here ſhe married Mr. Abington; and, ſeeing but a faint proſpect of riſing to eminence in her profeſſion, while the chief characters, to which ſhe aſpired, were in the poſſeſſion of Mrs. Clive, Mrs. Cibber, and more particularly of Mrs. Pritchard, ſhe agreed to very advantageous propoſals made to her by Meſſieurs Barry and Woodward, who had opened a theatre in Crow-Street, Dublin, in oppoſition to that in Smock-Alley under the management of Mr. Sheridan. She accordingly repaired to Dublin a ſhort time before the cloſe of the ſeaſon of 1759, and ſoon became a diſtinguiſhed favourite with the Iriſh audience.

The celebrity ſhe acquired in Ireland ſoon reached London, and the public became deſirous to behold the improvements of an actreſs, whoſe firſt eſſays had given ſo much pleaſure. She was accordingly engaged by Mr. Garrick,

Garrick, at a conſiderable ſalary, on his return from his continental excurſion; and, from her appearance at that time in the Widow Belmour, to the year 1782, ſhe performed Lady Fanciful, in the Provoked Wife; Araminta, in the School for Lovers; Belinda, in All in the Wrong; Biddy Tipkin, in the Tender Huſband; the ſecond Conſtantia; Millamant; Miſs Prue; Beatrice; Eſtifania; Clarinda; with a variety of other leading parts; and her claims to diſtinction, as the principal favourite of Thalia, were univerſally acknowledged. She was the original repreſentative of Lady Alton, in the Engliſh Merchant; Charlotte, in the Hypocrite; Miſs Ruſport, in the Weſt Indian; Lady Bab Lardoon; Roxalana; Lady Teazle; and Miſs Hoyden, in the Trip to Scarborough, altered by Mr. Sheridan from Vanbrugh's comedy of the Relapſe.

Some differences ariſing at this time between Mrs. Abington and the Drury-Lane proprietors, which it was found impoſſible to adjuſt to the ſatisfaction of both parties, ſhe was engaged, by Mr. Harris, on very liberal terms. From the ſeaſon of 1782-83, ſhe continued, for ſeveral years, under the management of that gentleman, to delight the *amateurs* of the drama with the verſatility of her powers; and, after a long ſeceſſion from the London boards, during which ſhe performed on the Dublin ſtage, ſhe was induced, by the advice of her friends and the ſolicitation of the manager, to reſume her ſituation in Covent-Garden Theatre in the ſeaſon of 1797-98.

Though ſhe certainly had loſt much of the charms of face and the graces of perſon, that ſo peculiarly contribute to the embelliſhment of the poet's text, and without which the ſenſe of the author and the expreſſion of the actor are at varianne, and tend to remind an audience, that the buſineſs of the ſcene is a fiction, ſhe retained her former ſpirited action, her natural elegance

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of delivery, and was received, on her return, with the moſt enthuſiaſtic marks of public favour.

Her laſt performance in public was for the benefit of Mr. Pope, this year, in her favourite part of Lady Racket, in Three Weeks after Marriage; and ſhe performed the character of Lady Fanciful, on the 31ſt of laſt May, at Brandenburgh-Houſe, to a ſelect auditory, when the Margravine and Miſs Berkeley appeared in Lady Brute and Belinda.

With reſpect to the former merits of Mrs. Abington, there exiſts but one opinion. Her profeſſional attractions were truly captivating, and ſhe had the happy art of diſplaying, in various lines, comic ruſticity and exquiſite humour, the graceful eaſe of the accompliſhed woman of faſhion, and the capricious airs of the fantaſtical coquette. Her late performances have produced ſome difference of ſentiment. When ſhe appeared, the captiouſneſs of criticiſm was on the watch to diſcover defects, not to applaud beauties; and it was objected to Mrs. Abington, without making any candid allowance for a retirement of many years, and the unavoidable ravages of time, that ſhe no longer poſſeſſed all thoſe theatrical requiſites for which ſhe had once been ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed. Her perſon and countenance are certainly much altered; but ſhe ſtill retains attractions of the firſt order,—unaffected eaſe, ſpirited elegance, and delicate diſcrimination. The natural manner in which ſhe delivers her dialogue cannot be too highly praiſed. There is no ſtudy, no labour, no painful exertion to command attention, which reflection muſt ever condemn; and, like the celebrated French actor, *Baron*, whoſe talents triumphed over age and infirmity, ſhe affords a ſtriking proof, to uſe the language of one of her encomiaſts of no mean reputation in the dramatic world, that

Nature, charming Nature, is eternal!

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The conduct of Mrs. Abington, in private life, is uncommonly engaging. Her converſation abounds in lively and inſtructive anecdote, and ſhe has the honour of ranking among the number of her friends ſome of the moſt diſtinguiſhed and reſpectable perſons in both kingdoms.

J. N.

MR. SAURIN,

THE IRISH ADVOCATE.

THIS gentleman claims a place among public characters on two grounds; — firſt, as being the firſt man in point of reputation and practice at the Iriſh bar; and, next, as being the firſt, the moſt active, and, perhaps, the moſt efficient, opponent of a legiſlative union.

To the univerſality of the maxim that envy is the conſtant concomitant of merit, Mr. Saurin affords one exception; for, whether we conſider him as a man in private life, or as a profeſſional man in public, he ſtands in the firſt rank; and yet there is, perhaps, no man who has ſuffered leſs from the envy of competitors, or againſt whom Malice has leſs induſtriouſly directed her ſhafts. Combined with great talents and profound legal learning, there is in Mr. Saurin a modeſty of demeanour, an unaſſuming gentleneſs, and general propriety of conduct, which either diſarms malevolence or protects him againſt its aſſaults.

Mr. Saurin is the deſcendant of a French family, which appear to have held a reputable rank in life. His elder brother was for many years a captain of dragoons, and at preſent, beſides his half-pay, enjoys the lucrative office of land-waiter of the port of Dublin; a place of which the average-profits are reckoned at 800*l.* per annum. Of Mr. Saurin's younger days, nothing remarkable is related: he paſſed through the ordinary ſtages of ſchool and college education without exciting much obſervation, and came

came to the bar with no other *éclat* than what was produced by the ſteady operation of ſound ſenſe and mild manners.

Among the Iriſh barriſters, it has been truly obſerved, there exiſts, perhaps, much too ſtrong a paſſion for obtaining a ſeat in par iament, and endeavouring to riſe rather by their political than by their profeſſional labours. Mr. Saurin has never been affected with this kind of ambition. Since he became eminent as a lawyer, he has often been ſolicited to accept a ſeat in parliament, and ſupport with his powers a government, which, for many years back, appears to have wanted all the talent, as well as all the influence, they could collect, to keep them afloat. He reſiſted thoſe ſolicitations, and has preferred the tranquil enjoyments of domeſtic life, uninterrupted by the contention of political ſtruggles, to the emoluments and rank of high office, and to the ſtill more plauſible and impoſing rewards of popularity. Though the Iriſh government found themſelves unable to enliſt Mr. Saurin among their active and parliamentary partizans, they nevertheleſs continued to pay him the reſpect which they conceived to be due to his talents and his virtues. In the adminiſtration of Lord Camden, he was honoured with a patent of precedence, which gives him a right of pre-audience in the courts immediately after his Majeſty's prime-ſergeant. This was indeed but a juſt token of reſpect for the alacrity and zeal with which he promoted the plan for forming a military corps from among the members of the Iriſh bar, ſhortly previous to the firſt attempt of the French on the coaſt of Ireland, by which an example was ſet to the reſt of the loyal people of the country, which has been followed with ſo much promptneſs, and has produced the ſalvation of the ſtate. Of that corps Mr. Saurin was elected, and ſtill continues, firſt captain; and on its intereſts and diſcipline he beſtows the moſt unremitted attention.

It was not, however, till the project of an union between the two countries was taken up by the adminiſtration, that they ſeriouſly ſet about procuring the ſanction and aſſiſtance of Mr. Saurin. To obtain his ſupport, in that meaſure particularly, they ſhewed the moſt ſolicitous anxiety; probably becauſe they knew or believed that the opinion of that gentleman would have great weight in regulating the opinion of the Iriſh bar, who were known to think ſo highly of his integrity and his talents. If it were with that view they wiſhed to ſecure his ſupport, they appear to have acted prudently; for, to the almoſt-unanimous oppoſition of the bar, an unanimity greatly owing to the example, the influence, and the reaſoning, of Mr. Saurin, the firſt defeat of that meaſure may be fairly attributed.

On that important occaſion, it is ſaid, with great confidence, that adminiſtration offered to Mr. Saurin not only the prime-ſergeantcy, when it ſhould become vacant, but the place of attorney-general on the next promotion. This offer, Mr. Saurin is ſaid to have declined; and it is alſo ſtated, that he was then offered the reverſion of the Chancery. Inſtead, however, of accepting theſe munificent offers, for which he was to adviſe and promote the ſurrender of the conſtitution and independence of his country, Mr. Saurin ſuggeſted to ſome of his brethren at the bar the neceſſity of calling a meeting of the barriſters to conſider the queſtion of Union, which, as it had now been officially announced, was to be propoſed to the Iriſh parliament in the enſuing ſeſſion. A requiſition was accordingly ſigned by a number of the moſt eminent characters in the profeſſion, and among them Mr. Saurin, deſiring a full meeting of the bar, on a certain day, to declare their ſenſe reſpecting the agitation of that momentous ſubject. The meeting was accordingly held and moſt numerouſly attended. Mr. Saurin opened the buſineſs of the meeting in a ſpeech, not long, but marked by

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that ingenious addreſs which peculiarly diſtinguiſhes him. In this ſpeech, he ſhortly and forcibly ſtated or inſinuated almoſt every argument which has been urged againſt an union, and concluded, by a reſolution, declaring it unwiſe and unneceſſary, at that time, to agitate the queſtion. A long diſcuſſion followed, which terminated in a diviſion, on which there appeared a vaſt majority in ſupport of Mr. Saurin's reſolution. The exertions of the bar, againſt the meaſure, led as they were by Mr. Saurin, did not terminate in that effort. A ſwarm of energetic well-written pamphlets, from the leading members of the profeſſion, for ſome months afterwards continued to enlighten and animate the public mind on that ſubject, and a periodical paper, called the ANTI-UNION, confined excluſively to that topic, and written with much zeal, much information, and great talent, contributed in no ſmall degree to confirm the public, and, perhaps, the Commons themſelves, in their reprobation of a legiſlative union. This paper was conducted and ſupported by four or five barriſters, the intimate friends of Mr. Saurin, and guided in their management of it chiefly by him, though, from the preſſure of profeſſional buſineſs, he was himſelf unable to fill many of its pages.

His conduct, on this great occaſion, made Mr. Saurin more than ever a favourite with the public, and, of his own profeſſion, made him almoſt the idol. A meeting of the bar was again ſummoned, for the purpoſe of marking to the public the eſtimation in which his brethren held his character and his ſervices to them and to the country. The meeting came to reſolutions which muſt have been in the higheſt degree flattering to him, and which were certainly founded in juſtice. At preſent, Mr. Saurin continues to ſuſtain the high character which he thus acquired by private and public virtue. He continues ſtill to confine himſelf to his profeſſional avocations, beyond which he ſtepped only on the ſingle and moſt important

occaſion,

occaſion, when the liberty and independence of his country appeared to him to be aſſailed. If any change have taken place in the public mind reſpecting that momentous ſubject, Mr. Saurin yet remains unchanged; and it is ſome argument againſt a legiſlative union, that a man, acknowledged one of the moſt loyal, the moſt prudent, the moſt ſagacious, and one the moſt learned in the conſtitution, has ever been, and remains, the decided and zealous opponent of that meaſure.

Mr. Saurin is low in ſtature; his countenance is characteriſtic of French origin; and, if the phyſiognomiſt be not rather influenced by what he knows *a priori* of the man, than by what he infers only from the viſage of his ſubject, it beſpeaks ſtrongly a cool and ſound judgment, a ſagacious underſtanding, and a good heart. He is ſaid to make conſiderably more in his profeſſion than any other man at the Iriſh bar. There appears, however, no obvious or ſhining excellence in his manner of diſcharging his forenſic duties. His diction is plain, but correct; his manner cool, diſquiſitional, and quite unimpaſſioned. His great merit as a bar-orator conſiſts in the ingenuity of his ſtatements, his colouring, his ſelection of facts, and his judicious arrangement of matter. He poſſeſſes a very ſtrong memory, ſound judgment, great legal knowledge, the reſult of laborious and early reading, and he is, above all, characterized for a degree of attention to buſineſs, to which even a young and a poor man is ſeldom found to ſubmit. W.

DOCTOR SAMUEL ARNOLD.

(COMMUNICATED BY MR. THOMAS BUSBY.)

THIS gentleman, whoſe profeſſional celebrity was ſo early acquired, and which has been ſo long and ſo deſervedly maintained, received his muſical education at the

the Chapel-Royal, St. James's, partly under the late Mr. Gates, and partly under his ſucceſſor Dr. Nares.

The ſtrong indications he evinced, even in infancy, of a genius formed for the cultivation of the tuneful ſcience, determined his parents to yield to the bias of nature, by placing him in ſome reſpectable harmonic ſeminary. The inviting proſpect of future patronage, from the late princeſſes Amelia and Caroline, was at the ſame time an additional inducement with them to give the fulleſt ſcope in their power to that impulſe of genius, which, under ſkilful maſters, could not but be productive of future honour and emolument to its poſſeſſor; and, at the expreſs deſire of thoſe illuſtrious perſonages, he was, at the uſual age of admiſſion, placed in the King's Chapel. His ardent perſeverance in ſtudy daily afforded the moſt convincing proofs that muſic was the ſcience for which nature had deſigned him, and juſtified the choice his parents had made.

Mr. Gates and Dr. Nares were maſters of reſpectable abilities, and conſequently knew how to appreciate and encourage dawning talents. The former of theſe gentlemen was, indeed, ſo partial to his aſſiduous and promiſing pupil, that he conſtantly diſtinguiſhed him by marks of his particular favour, and at his death left him a legacy. From induſtry, combined with real genius, reſulted that rapid progreſs which at once rewards and propels the aſpiring ſtudent; and young Mr. Arnold, before he had reached manhood, rendered himſelf, by his taſte and ſcience, an ornament to the profeſſion to which the future ſtudy of his life was to be devoted.

About the year 1760, Mr. Beard, of vocal celebrity, and at that time one of the managers of Covent-Garden Theatre, became acquainted with Mr. Arnold, and was ſo ſenſible of his extraordinary merit, as to be glad to avail himſelf of his talents by introducing him to the notice of the public as compoſer to that houſe. That juſtly-

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admired and unaffected imitator of nature poſſeſſed all that ſimplicity of taſte and chaſteneſs of manner ſo happily calculated to draw forth the efforts of genuine ability; and, in compoſing for ſuch a ſinger, Mr. Arnold neceſſarily adopted that ſtrength and purity of melody calculated to touch the heart, and to which moſt of the nerveleſs and unnatural ſtrains of later days do not ſeem even to pretend.

True genius, like the eagle, feels its power of ſuperior flight, and diſdains the track of mediocrity! It is, therefore, no wonder that Mr. Arnold, after his ſucceſs with the Maid of the Mill and ſeveral other compoſitions, ſhould feel the impulſe to exert his talents upon an oratorio. The Cure of Saul, written by the late Rev. Dr. Brown, offered itſelf to his contemplation; and, in the year 1767, he made choice of that excellent poem for his firſt effort in the higher ſtyle of muſical compoſition. In this attempt he ſo happily ſucceeded, that it was univerſally allowed to be the greateſt production in its kind ſince the time of the immortal Handel. Mr. Arnold, who had never ſuffered his private intereſt to come in competition with the public good, generouſly made a preſent of this work to the Society inſtituted for the Benefit of decayed Muſicians and their Families; and it proved to that ſociety a moſt valuable acquiſition. The fund had greatly ſunk, and the receipts of their annual concerts were ſtill decreaſing. The Cure of Saul, however, attracted crowded audiences, and contributed to the reſtoration of that ſucceſs and proſperity which had formerly marked the progreſs of that highly-laudable inſtitution. The diſtinguiſhed honour with which Mr. Arnold had acquitted himſelf in the arduous taſk of compoſing an oratorio encouraged him to proceed; and ſoon after gave birth to a ſecond production of the ſame kind, called Abimelech, which was ſucceeded by the Reſurrection and the Prodigal Son. The latter three of theſe oratorios were, during ſeveral ſucceſſive Lents, performed at the Theatre-

Theatre-Royal in the Haymarket, and Covent-Garden Theatre, under his own management and direction. His firſt enterpriſe was in the Haymarket, at play-houſe prices, and ſucceeded ſo far as to induce him to quit the Little Theatre. But the ſecond ſpeculation was not equally favourable. The plan on which he proceeded was certainly judicious; and, had he not been oppoſed by a powerful court-intereſt at Drury-Lane, muſt have anſwered his moſt ſanguine expectations; but, from that oppoſition, together with his enormous expenſes, and other unforeſeen cauſes, it proved an unfortunate adventure. About the time that he wrote the Reſurrection, he compoſed and publiſhed in ſcore four ſets of Vauxhall ſongs, the greater part of which are uncommonly ſweet in their melodies, and in their accompaniments diſplay much richneſs of taſte, aided by a thorough acquaintance with the characters and powers of the various inſtruments. Of all his oratorios, the Prodigal Son reflects the greateſt portion of honour on his talents and judgment. It is, indeed, for the moſt part, conceived in a manly and noble ſtyle, and exhibits much of that greatneſs and ſublimity of mind indiſpenſable to the production of oratorial compoſition. It formed a ſplendid addition to that laurel he had already ſo fairly earned, and gave him an indiſputable ſtation in that rank of compoſers which only true genius, cultivated by profound ſcience, can ever hope to attain. The fame of this ſacred drama was ſo high, that, when, in 1773, it was in contemplation to inſtal the late Lord North chancellor of the univerſity of Oxford, the ſtewards, appointed to conduct the muſical department of the ceremony, applied to the compoſer of the Prodigal Son for permiſſion to perform that oratorio on the ſolemn occaſion. Mr. Arnold's ready and polite acquieſcence with this requeſt procured him the offer of an honorary degree in the theatre; but, conſcious of his own ſcientific qualifications, he preferred the academical

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mode; and, conformably to the ſtatutes of the univerſity, received it in the ſchool-room, where he performed, as an exerciſe, Hughes's poem on the Power of Muſic. On ſuch occaſions, it is uſual for the muſical profeſſor of the univerſity to examine the exerciſe of the candidate; but Dr. William Hayes, then the profeſſor of Oxford, returned Mr. Arnold his ſcore unopened, ſaying, "Sir, it is quite unneceſſary to ſcrutinize the exerciſe of the author of the Prodigal Son."

In the year 1771, Dr. Arnold married Miſs Napier, daughter of Archibald Napier, Doctor in Phyſic, with which lady he received a handſome fortune. About the ſame year, he purchaſed, of Mr. Pinto, Marybone-Gardens, then the much-frequented ſcene of gaiety and faſhion. For the better entertainment of the public, the Doctor furniſhed the gardens with a ſcenic ſtage and compoſed and performed ſome excellent burlettas, which were moſt favourably received. Theſe ſhort, but pleaſing pieces, while they evinced his verſatile powers as a compoſer, aſſiſted to diſplay the vocal abilities of Miſs Harper, (now Mrs. Banniſter,) Miſs Catley, Miſs Brown, (afterwards Mrs. Cargil,) Mrs. Barthelemon, Mr. Charles Banniſter, Mr. Reinhold, and many other reſpectable and well-known London performers. Ever anxious to merit that attention and encouragement with which the public diſtinguiſhed his exertions to gratify the general taſte, Dr. Arnold, at a very great expence, engaged, for the uſe of the gardens, the aſſiſtance of that ingenious artiſt, Signor Torré, whoſe fire-works excited the admiration of all who witneſſed their beauty and magnificence; and whoſe repreſentation of the Cave of Vulcan was allowed by all connoiſſeurs in the art to be the moſt ſtriking and ſtupendous performance ever exhibited in this country. In 1776, the leaſe of the gardens expired; and that delightful ſpot, to which the votaries of taſte and innocent pleaſure had ſo long reſorted, was,

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by the proprietors, let to various builders, and ſoon after converted into an integral part of the metropolis.

When Mr. Beard, after many years of meritorious public ſervice, retired to the enjoyment of a well-earned competency, the late Mr. George Colman became his ſucceſſor, as one of the managers of Covent-Garden Theatre. The claſſical and diſcriminating mind of this gentleman and ſcholar felt and acknowledged the ſterling abilities of Dr. Arnold; and he was deſirous to retain ſo valuable an acquiſition to the houſe. The place of compoſer to his theatre could not be better occupied than by a maſter whoſe merit the town had already ſo ſtrongly ſtamped with the ſanction of its approbation.

About the year 1776, the Engliſh Ariſtophanes quitted the ſtage, and Mr. Colman, having ſufficient intereſt to procure the continuance of the patent, purchaſed the Haymarket-Theatre. Unwilling to loſe the tributary ſervice of thoſe talents, by which he had already ſo greatly profited, he engaged Dr. Arnold to conduct the muſical department in his new concern. This ſituation the Doctor ſtill continues to fill with honour to himſelf and advantage to the proprietors.

On the death of the late Dr. Nares, which happened early in the year 1783, Dr. Arnold was appointed his ſucceſſor as organiſt and compoſer to his Majeſty's Chapel at St. James's, to which honourable office he was ſworn in on March the 1ſt of the ſame year; and, at the grand performances of the Commemoration of Handel, at Weſtminſter-Abbey, the firſt of which took place in 1784, the Doctor was appointed one of the ſub-directors of that celebrity, and preſented with a medal which his Majeſty has permitted the ſub-directors to wear at all times, as a mark of his approbation of their conduct on that great and magnificent occaſion. In the year 1786, Dr. Arnold projected and entered upon the plan of publiſhing an uniform edition of the whole of Handel's works; and proceed-

ed in this arduous undertaking to the hundred and eighteenth number, going through all his productions, except his Italian operas. He alſo, at the ſame time, publiſhed four volumes of cathedral muſic, forming a continuation of Dr. Boyce's great and well-known work. Three of the volumes are in ſcore for the voices, and one for the organ.

In November, 1789, it was reſolved, by the ſubſcribers to the Academy of Antient Muſic, to place their performances more fully under the direction of ſome profeſſional gentleman of eminence. On this occaſion, Dr. Arnold, Dr. Cooke, and Dr. Dupuis, were ſeverally nominated candidates, when Dr. Arnold was elected by a great majority, and inveſted with the entire direction and management of the orcheſtra, the authority of hiring of inſtruments, engaging performers, and of doing whatever elſe related to the concert; the committee pledging itſelf to indemnify the conductor for all expenſes. The management of this reſpectable inſtitution has, ſince that time, continued in the Doctor's hands, with the higheſt credit to himſelf, and the greateſt ſatisfaction to the academicians and ſubſcribers.

At the death of the late Dr. Cooke, which happened in the year 1793, the real merit and high reputation of Dr. Arnold recommended him to the notice of the ingenious and learned Dr. Horſley, biſhop of Rocheſter and dean of Weſtminſter. The biſhop, caſting his eye around for a meritorious object, naturally fixed on Dr. Arnold; and I have it from the Doctor himſelf, that his appointment was unſolicited, and performed on the part of the worthy prelate "in the handſomeſt manner poſſible."

In 1796, the Doctor was applied to, to ſucceed the late Dr. Philip Hayes as conductor of the annual performances at St. Paul's for the Feaſt of the Sons of the Clergy; in which ſituation he has well ſupported his high profeſſional character.

Dr. Arnold has had five children, of which, two daughters and one ſon are now living. His eldeſt daughter was lately

lately married to Mr. Roſe, a gentleman engaged in mercantile buſineſs. The ſecond is unmarried. Mr. Samuel Arnold inherits all that intellectual pre-eminence which has ſo long diſtinguiſhed his father. He is the author of ſeveral muſical dramas, moſt of which have been flatteringly received; and he has written an excellent novel, entitled "The Creole." But the circumſtance the moſt worthy of remark is, the rapid and extraordinary progreſs he has made in the profeſſion he has lately aſſumed. Scarcely a twelvemonth has elapſed ſince he commenced portrait-painter; and, in the laſt exhibition at Somerſet-Houſe, the public were preſented with a portrait of Dr. Ayrton from his pencil. But at this the reader will be leſs ſurpriſed when told, that that excellent artiſt, Mr. Beachey, on examining Mr. Arnold's firſt effort in this way, declared that he never before ſaw ſuch a *firſt picture.*

It is a truth highly honourable to Dr. Arnold, that the exerciſe of his profeſſional talents has never been entirely confined to the public amuſement and his own private emolument. The proſperity of thoſe numerous charities which diſtinguiſh this country, and reflect ſo much honour on their ſeveral founders, has engroſſed much of his attention; and many a handſome collection has, in a great meaſure, been derived from his voluntary and gratuitous aſſiſtance. By the kindly aid of that ſcience which ſome conſider as trivial, or as an uſeleſs luxury, and only calculated to excite the looſer paſſions, he has ſuccoured the moſt philanthropic and noble inſtitutions, and contributed to "feed the hungry and clothe the naked."

Every one, who has the pleaſure of the Doctor's acquaintance, will acknowledge, that, independently of his profeſſional excellencies, he poſſeſſes many qualities which claim the eſteem of ſociety. His genius and ſcience have, from time to time, procured him a great number of friends; and his ſocial and amiable diſpoſition has always

preſerved them. His converſation is open, pleaſant, and unaffected; his heart is framed to feel for the diſtreſſes of others; and his ſincerity in friendſhip is univerſally known.

His works are voluminous, as will be ſeen by the following catalogue:

ORATORIOS.

The Cure of Saul.
Abimelech.
The Reſurrection.
The Prodigal Son.

ODES.

The Jeſuit.
To the Haymakers.
On the Queen's Birth-Day.
Prince of Wales's Birth-Day.
To Muſic.
To Night.
To Humanity.
On Shakſpeare.

SERENATAS.

Hercules and Omphale.
Apollo.
Theſeus and Peleus.

OPERAS.

The Maid of the Mill.
Roſamond.
April-Day.
The Caſtle of Andaluſia.
Lilliput.
The Son-in-Law.
The Weather-Cock.
Summer Amuſement.
The Agreeable Surpriſe.
The Dead Alive.
Julius Cæſar.
The Silver Tankard.
True Blue.
The Spaniſh Barber.
The Blind Man.
Tom Jones.
The Prince of Arragon.
Two to One.
Turk and no Turk.
The Siege of Curzola.
Inkle and Yarico.
The Battle of Hexham.
Gretna-Green.
Fire and Water.
Hunt the Slipper.
The Wedding-Night.
The Baron.
The Female Dramatiſt.
The Garland.
Surrender of Calais.
The Mountaineers.
The Shipwreck.
Auld Robin Gray.
Apollo turned Stroller.
Who pays the Reckoning?
The Portrait.
Peeping Tom.
The Enraged Muſician.
Arthur.
New Spain.
Throw Phyſic to the Dogs.
Children in the Wood.
Cambro-Britons.
Italian Monk.
Falſe and True.
The Hovel.

BURLETTAS.

The Magnet.
The Cure of Dotage.
Don Quixote.

Overtures

Overtures, Concertos, Trios, Canzonets, Single Songs, Catches, Glees, and Leſſons for the Harpſichord or Piano-Forte.

IN MANUSCRIPT.

Various Services and Anthems compoſed for public Charities, and for the immediate Uſe of his Majeſty's Chapels.

ADMIRAL LORD BRIDPORT.

THIS veteran officer was the ſon of the late vicar of Thorncombe, in Devonſhire, and the younger brother of Lord Hood, a memoir of whom appeared in our former volume. He received, we believe, his principal education under the immediate eye of his parent.

Lord Bridport entered early into the naval ſervice; and, having only his own merit and diligence to truſt to, in reſpect to his future proſpects, his ſubſequent eminence forms the higheſt panegyric on his character.

On the 2d of December, 1746, he was made a lieutenant; and, on the 10th of June, 1756, was promoted to be poſt-captain of the Prince George, of 90 guns. In 1757, he was appointed to the Antelope, of 50 guns; and, being on a cruiſe in the month of May, on the coaſt of France, he fell in with the Aquilon, a French frigate, of 48 guns and 450 men. After a running fight of two hours, Captain Hood drove her on the rocks in Audierne-Bay, where ſhe was totally loſt. The enemy had thirty men killed, and thirteen wounded. The Antelope had three killed, and thirteen wounded.*

In 1758, Captain Hood ſerved in the Mediterranean on board the St. George, of 90 guns, commanded by Rear-Admiral Saunders, part of the fleet under the command of Admiral Oſborne. He was preſent on the 28th of February,

* During this action, a midſhipman, of the name of Murray, had both his legs ſhot away. He was immediately carried down to the ſurgeon; but, whilſt his wounds were dreſſing, hearing three cheers from the crew, and concluding the enemy's ſhip had ſtruck, the ebbing ſpirit of his life inſtantly rallied; and, waving his hand in triumph, the gallant youth expired!

February, when the French admiral Du Queſne, in attempting to reinforce De la Clue, was blocked up in the harbour of Carthagena. Captain Hood returned from the Mediterranean with Rear-Admiral Saunders, and arrived at Spithead on the 5th of July. Soon after his arrival, he was appointed to command the Minerva frigate, of 32 guns. During the greater part of 1759, he ſerved under Commodore Duff, who was employed to block up the French tranſports in the Morbian. Captain Hood alſo captured the Ecureuil, a Bayonne privateer, of 14 guns and 122 men; but he did not obtain any freſh addition of laurels till the beginning of the year 1761. On the 23d of January of that year, cruizing near Cape Pinas, which bore S. by E. thirty leagues, a large ſail was diſcerned from the Minerva ſoon after daybreak. Captain Hood immediately gave orders to chaſe. His antagoniſt was the Warwick, an old Engliſh ſhip, pierced for 60 guns, and mounting 34, commanded by M. Le Verger de Belair. Her crew amounted to about three hundred men, including a company of ſoldiers, which were deſtined to reinforce the garriſon at Pondicherry. It was paſt ten before the Minerva came up with her; when Captain Hood, notwithſtanding his inferiority, ran alongſide, and began the engagement. The fire on both ſides was terrible. "At eleven,* her main and fore-top maſt went away, and ſoon after ſhe came on board us on the ſtarboard bow, and then fell alongſide; but the ſea ſoon parted us, when the enemy fell aſtern. About a quarter after eleven, the Minerva's bowſprit went away, and the fore-moſt ſoon followed it: theſe were very unfortunate accidents, and I almoſt deſpaired of being able to attack the enemy again. However, I cut the wreck away as ſoon as poſſible; and, about one o'clock, cleared the ſhip of it, with the loſs of one man and the ſheet-anchor. I then wore the ſhip, and ſtood for the enemy, who was about three leagues to leeward of me.

At

* Captain Hood's Letter to Government.

At four o'clock, I came up close to the enemy, and renewed the attack. About a quarter before five she struck; when I found she had fourteen killed, and thirty-two wounded. Our numbers are, the boatswain and thirteen killed, and the gunner and thirty-three wounded: the former and two seamen died on the 27th. I have given my thanks to the officers and crew of his Majesty's ship for their firm and spirited behaviour; and I have great pleasure in acquainting their lordships with it. At nine o'clock, the main-mast of the Minerva went away; at eleven, the mizen-mast followed it."

Captain Hood rose, by this gallant action, high in the estimation of his Sovereign and the public. It gave celebrity to his character, and placed his merit as an officer above the common level. He was, in consequence, appointed, in August, 1761, to command part of the squadron destined to convey the present queen to England. After the peace of Paris in 1763, he obtained a guard-ship at Portsmouth; and, in 1766, soon after the usual period of his command had elapsed, succeeded Sir Charles Saunders as the treasurer of Greenwich-Hospital.

On the prospect of hostilities with France, he sailed from St. Helen's on the 8th of June, 1778, in the Robust, of 74 guns, being part of the grand Channel fleet under the command of Admiral Keppel. On the 28th, they returned into port, with the French frigates Pallas and Licorne, which had been captured; and they sailed again on Friday, the 10th of July. The Brest fleet, consisting of thirty-two sail, five frigates, and five gondolas, had also in the interim put to sea. After some days spent in manœuvring, the action between the two fleets commenced off Ushant on the 27th of July. The winds were constantly in the N. W. and S. W. sometimes blowing strong, and the French fleet, being always to windward, kept aloof. The French began their fire on the 27th upon the headmost of Vice-Admiral Har-

land's

land's diviſion; and the two fleets, being on different tacks, paſſed very near each other, engaging ſharply along the whole line. Towards the cloſe of day, the enemy formed their fleet again; a proceeding which Admiral Keppel did not prevent, as he conceived they meant handſomely to meet him the next morning. He was, however, diſappointed in this expectation, as they took the advantage of the night, and, on the following morning, were out of ſight. Captain Hood was ſtationed in the line, in the blue diviſion, as ſecond to its admiral, Sir Hugh Palliſer. The Robuſt, on the morning of the 27th, had been ordered with other ſhips, by ſignal from the Victory, to chaſe to windward; and, during the ſubſequent action, ſhe was rather ſeverely handled by the enemy. A large ſhot went through the main-maſt, two through the fore-maſt, two ſtruck the bowſprit, and one ſlightly wounded the mizen-maſt. The main-topmaſt was ſhot in two or three places; the main-topſail-yard ſhot away; the fore-topgallant-maſt ſhot in two; the mizen-yard received two ſhot, and beſides ſhe had received about fourteen ſhot under water, one of which, being a forty-eight pounder, rendered the ſituation of the crew dangerous; and it was eight o'clock in the evening before they could ſtop the leak. The ſails of the Robuſt were much cut; moſt of the braces, bowlines, and running rigging, with many of the lower and topmaſt yards, and two of the ſtarboard lower-deck ports, were ſhot away. Notwithſtanding, however, that his ſhip was ſo much damaged, ſhe was fought ſo judiciouſly, that only five men were killed and ſeventeen wounded. Captain Hood returned with the fleet to Spithead on the 28th of October, and did not go to ſea again until he obtained an admiral's flag.

The ſubſequent trials of the two commanders, Lord Keppel and Sir Hugh Palliſer, and the part taken by Sir Alexander Hood on the occaſion, drew upon him much

popular

popular odium at the time. He was, however, on the 26th of September, 1780, appointed Rear-Admiral of the White; and having, in 1782, hoiſted his flag on board the Queen, of 90 guns, he was appointed to command the ſecond, or larboard, diviſion of the centre ſquadron in the grand fleet, which was ſent under the command of Lord Howe to relieve Gibraltar. On the 19th of October, Lord Howe, having effected the object of his voyage, took the advantage of a fair wind to re-paſs the Streights. He was followed by the combined fleet of the enemy, conſiſting of forty-ſix ſail of the line. The Britiſh fleet being formed to leeward to receive them, the enemy were left to take the diſtance at which they choſe to engage. The French diviſion commenced its cannonade about ſun-ſet on the van and rear, the chief attack being on the latter, and the fire was ſoon commenced along the whole line, at a conſiderable diſtance, and with little effect. It was returned occaſionally from the ſhips of the Britiſh fleet, as the nearer approach of the enemy afforded a favourable opportunity of making an impreſſion upon them; but, as the Britiſh commander had no orders to riſk a general engagement, he kept his courſe all night in full ſail, and thus the fleets ſeparated.

The year following, Rear-Admiral Hood was choſen member for the borough of Bridgewater, and, on the 7th of May, 1788, he was inveſted with the order of the Bath. At the time of the apprehended rupture with Spain, on the 12th of May, 1790, Admiral Hood's flag was hoiſted on board the London, of 98 guns. On the 4th of July, he commanded the van diviſion of Admiral Barrington's fleet in Torbay, with his flag on board the Victory, of 100 guns.

On the 1ſt of February, 1793, Sir Alexander Hood was promoted to be vice-admiral of the red. During this year, his flag continued on board the Royal George, with a command under Earl Howe in the Channel fleet.

On

On the famous 1ſt of June, and on the preceding days, his ſhip was particularly diſtinguiſhed. She commenced the action on the 29th of May, and, during that on the 1ſt of June, was expoſed to an inceſſant cannonade. Sir Alexander, during the whole of this action, diſplayed in many inſtances his great ſkill and intrepidity. The foremaſt, with the fore and main-top-maſt, of the Royal George, were ſhot away, and ſhe had twenty men killed and ſeventy-two wounded. On his return, he was preſented with the gold chain and medal, with the other flag-officers and captains of the victorious fleet, and was afterwards created Baron Bridport.

His lordſhip acquired freſh laurels, off L'Orient, in June, 1795, in an engagement between the fleet he commanded and a fleet of the enemy. By a maſterly manœuvre, he took, in this affair, three line-of-battle ſhips.

On the 31ſt of May, 1796, Lord Bridport was made a peer of Great Britain; and, ſince the late Lord Howe finally reſigned the command of the Channel fleet, in 1797, the ſubject of this memoir has continued to hold it with great credit to himſelf and his country.

His firſt wife was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Weſt, and niece to the late Lord Viſcount Cobham. By this marriage he became related to the Pitt and Lyttleton families. His lady dying in September, 1782, he was again married, on the 26th of June, 1788, to Miſs Bray, only daughter of the late Thomas Bray, Eſq. of Edmonton.

Lord Bridport firſt learnt the principles of our naval ſervice under the Admirals Smith and Saunders. Thoſe perſons, who have ſerved under his command, ſpeak of him as their father, rather than as their ſuperior officer. His name will certainly paſs down to poſterity among the Howes, the Rodneys, the Anſons, the Ruſſells, the Blakes,

Blakes, the Duncans, and the illuſtrious liſt of other naval heroes, who have contributed to raiſe their country to its preſent height of diſtinction and glory. K.

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN.

THE biography of an eminent ſtateſman muſt neceſſarily be peculiarly intereſting. It muſt in a great degree be the hiſtory of the times in which he flouriſhed. It muſt record the events which owe their birth to his counſels or his authority. But it very rarely happens, as in the preſent inſtance, that thoſe men, whom nature has qualified for high and dignified ſtations, exhibit in their perſonal character the pure and amiable affections, which, while they embelliſh their private lives, adminiſter health and conſiſtency to their public virtues.

The Marquis of Lanſdown, the moſt conſiderable and enlightened ſtateſman of his age, is deſcended in the male line from the houſe of Fitzgerald. Thomas Fitzmaurice, firſt Earl of Kerry, the offspring of a junior branch of the Leinſter family, married Anne, daughter of the celebrated Sir William Petty, Knt. profeſſor of anatomy in the univerſity of Oxford, and who was one of the founders and firſt fellows of the Royal Society.*

John

* Sir *William Petty*, the ſon of Anthony Petty, a clothier at Rumſey, in Hampſhire, was educated at the grammar-ſchool there, and went to Paris to ſtudy anatomy. In 1647, he obtained a patent from the parliament, for ſeventeen years, to teach the *art of double writing*. In 1648, he acted as deputy to Dr. Clayton, profeſſor of anatomy at Oxford, obtained the degree of Doctor of Phyſic, and was, in 1651, elected profeſſor of anatomy. He ſoon after went to Ireland as phyſician to the army; and, in 1654, entered into a contract for regulating the admeaſurement of forfeited lands, by which he gained a conſiderable ſum. He was alſo appointed clerk of the council in that kingdom. He improved his fortune very much by the purchaſe of ſoldiers' debentures, was knighted by Charles the Second in 1661, and was one of the firſt members of the Royal Society. He invented, ſoon after, a double-bottomed ſhip, which was tried and approved. It appears, from his laſt will, that he eſtimated his real eſtate at 6,500*l.* per annum; his perſonal eſtate at about 45,000*l.* and the improvements of his Iriſh property at 4,000*l.* per annum. He left, in all, to the amount of 15,000*l* a year—A prodigious fortune acquired from ſo ſmall a beginning!

John Fitzmaurice, the ſecond ſon by this marriage, and the father of the preſent Marquis of Lanſdown, was created EARL of SHELBURNE, Viſcount Fitzmaurice, and Baron Dunkerton, in Ireland, and Baron Wycombe, in Great Britain, by his late Majeſty George the Second, in 1753. The ſubject of theſe pages was created MARQUIS of LANSDOWN on the 30th of November, 1782. He bore a commiſſion in the Guards early in life; and, during the ſeven-years war, ſerved in Germany as a volunteer under the preſent Duke of Brunſwick.*

His lordſhip was born in the ſame year as his preſent Majeſty, and ſucceeded to his father's title in May, 1761. He was afterwards appointed aid-de-camp to the King, and his military has ſince kept pace with his political rank: in 1763, we find him raiſed to be a major-general; in 1772, a lieutenant-general; and, in 1783, he became a general in the Britiſh army.

It was probably owing to the early acquaintance he had cultivated with the late Earl of Chatham, that he became attached to the party of that great ſtateſman; an attachment no leſs creditable to their talents and integrity, than uſeful and honourable to their country. He was ſworn firſt Lord of Trade and a Privy-Counſellor on the 16th of April, 1768, the day on which Lord Bute's adminiſtration gave way to that of Mr. George Grenville.

On the 30th of July, 1766, he was appointed, in Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration, one of his Majeſty's principal ſecretaries of ſtate, upon the reſignation of the Duke of Richmond. He immediately took an efficient part in the adminiſtration, at that time denominated Lord Chatham's Miniſtry,

* At the battle of Campen, and on other occaſions, his lordſhip has evinced great perſonal courage. This quality afterwards ſerved him, when, in 1781, he was conſtrained to fight a duel with Colonel Fullerton for words ſpoken in his place in parliament.

Miniſtry, the oſtenſible head of which was the preſent Duke of Grafton. The Earl of Chatham, however, who held the office of Lord Privy-Seal, was known to be the actual director of its counſels. During this period, the late venerable and reſpected Camden held the great ſeal, the firſt Earl of Northington was preſident of the privy-council, and the Marquis of Granby had the command of the army. The executive power was never wielded by men who poſſeſſed more ability and independence; but they had to encounter the extenſive influence of the Rockingham party whom they had diſplaced. That party had acquired popularity from the repeal of the Stamp-Act and the reſtoration of harmony and confidence to America; they had avowed themſelves the determined enemies of favouritiſm and ſecret influence, at that time held in univerſal dread and deteſtation; and, as it was notorious that Lord Bute, who had retired from power in 1768, ſtill preſerved his influence over the party who ſucceeded him under Mr. George Grenville, the nation was naturally diſpoſed to ſuſpect that the new adminiſtration was ſubject to the ſame control. The event juſtified theſe fears; for, notwithſtanding the profeſſed independence of the miniſtry, and their averſion to the ſchemes and meaſures of what was denominated the Scotch faction, yet ſuch was their want of coherence and union in parliament, that they found themſelves equally unable to reſiſt the intrigues of favouritiſm in the cabinet, and the influence of the Rockingham party in the Houſe of Commons.

Could theſe two great parties, headed by the Marquis of Rockingham and the Earl of Chatham, have been perſuaded to form a vigorous and well-cemented combination againſt the increaſing influence which they both dreaded, the dangerous faction could never have prevailed. But, though no expedient for this purpoſe was left untried by the friends of both, and by all the beſt patriots

triots in the country, their efforts were unfortunately ineffectual. Had this union been accompliſhed, we ſhould not, probably, at this day, have to lament the ſeparation of America. The right aſſumed by the Britiſh parliament to tax the colonies was never admitted either by the Marquis of Rockingham or the Earl of Chatham, but was moſt ſtrenuouſly denied and reſiſted by them, from the origin to the termination of the ſubſequent conteſt. The diſpute with America would therefore never have originated with men, who held in ſuperſtitious reverence wiſe and liberal maxims of policy, which were groſsly violated by the abſurd and unjuſt attempt to tax the colonies.

As no means could be deviſed to unite theſe popular leaders, the new adminiſtration had but a ſhort exiſtence. The Earl of Chatham was the firſt who reſigned, avowing, as his reaſon, in the Houſe of Lords, that "his meaſures were counteracted by a *ſecret influence* behind the throne, more powerful than majeſty itſelf." Lord Shelburne ſoon followed, having been thwarted in his deſign to relieve the Corſicans, who were then making brave and laudable exertions under Paoli, their leader, for the reſtoration of their liberties. The Duke of Grafton and the Marquis of Granby were the only patriotic members of the cabinet who retained their places, a circumſtance which expoſed them to the ſevere animadverſions and invectives of Junius.

From this period, till the year 1782, we find the Earl of Shelburne in honourable oppoſition to all the meaſures of government, preſerving a conſiſtency and uniformity of principle, highly creditable to his political character. From 1770 to 1782 was certainly the moſt brilliant period of his public life. Among the meaſures of great public importance which he reprobated was, the deciſion of the Houſe of Commons upon the legal and conſtitutional return of Mr. Wilkes to repreſent the county of Middleſex,

Middleſex in parliament.* He oppoſed the power aſſerted by the two Houſes, in the caſe of the printers, to puniſh by fine and impriſonment in caſes where they themſelves were accuſers, judge, and jury, without a trial in the regular courſe of law, by a jury of their peers. He expoſed the folly and wickedneſs of the American war through every ſtage of its progreſs. He reſiſted the increaſing influence of the crown, and the enormous additions to the public debt. He ſuggeſted an inquiry into the public expenditure, propoſed an abolition of uſeleſs places and of unneceſſary expenſes in various departments of the ſtate, and brought forward various motions which tended to eſtabliſh a more rigid ſyſtem of public œconomy. During this period, no queſtion of importance was agitated in parliament in which the Earl of Shelburne did not take a leading part, and always on the patriotic or popular ſide.

The death of the Earl of Chatham placed him at the head of his political connexion, which, indeed, prior to that event, had begun to be diſtinguiſhed by the denomination of *the Shelburne party*, and already united, among other eminent perſonages, the Duke of Grafton, Earl Camden, Mr. Dunning, Colonel Barré, and Mr. Alderman Townſend; inconſiderable in point of numbers, but pre-eminent in talents, eloquence, and popularity. In 1780, this party was reinforced by the yet-untried powers of the preſent miniſter, who, to the hereditary influence of a great name, joined the promiſe he had always given of extraordinary talents.

On the overthrow of Lord North, in 1782, the long-deſired union of the Rockingham and Shelburne parties actually took place; and an adminiſtration was formed which united the patriotiſm, virtue, and ability, of theſe two

* He alſo adopted a ſpirited line of conduct, in 1770, on the introduction of a bill for the repeal of the Corporation and Teſt Acts, and, on its loſs, he proteſted with the Dukes of Portland, Richmond, and other lords.

two powerful intereſts. The Marquis of Rockingham was placed at the head of the Treaſury, and Lord John Cavendiſh of the Exchequer; Mr. Fox, appointed ſecretary of ſtate, was the efficient miniſter; Lord Keppel was placed at the head of the Admiralty; the Duke of Richmond at that of the Ordnance; and General Conway had the command of the army; the Earl of Shelburne accepted the management of the foreign department, for which he was certainly the beſt qualified of any perſon in Europe; Earl Camden was made preſident of the council; the Duke of Grafton, privy-ſeal; Mr. Dunning was created Lord Aſhburton, and appointed chancellor of the Dutchy Court of Lancaſter; and Lord Thurlow was permitted to retain the Great Seal, which he had obtained during the former adminiſtration. The Rockingham party had a majority of voices, the firſt ſix members having acted in cloſe uniſon during the time they had been in oppoſition. Mr. Burke, Colonel Barré, and the reſt of the leading characters in the two Houſes of Parliament, filled the ſecondary offices. If ever there was a party of political men, which derived its ſtrength from the feelings and ſupport of the country at large, it was this adminiſtration. Ambaſſadors or pacific intimations were immediately diſpatched to the various European courts. The Duke of Portland and General Fitzpatrick were ſent with powers to tranquillize Ireland. Uſeleſs places, the ſalaries of which amounted to upwards of ſeventy thouſand pounds a year, were aboliſhed. Perſons holding offices under government were deprived, by act of parliament, of the right of voting or interfering in elections. Contractors were rendered ineligible to ſit or vote in the Houſe of Commons. Projects of parliamentary reform were framed with the beſt omens of ſucceſs, and an inquiry inſtituted into the ſtate of the repreſentation of the people.—All this was done in the ſhort ſpace of three months.

The

The moſt fatal calamity that could fall upon the country at ſuch a moment blaſted theſe fair and promiſing expectations. The death of the Marquis of Rockingham diſſolved the union on which the people had placed their unbounded confidence, and the current of reformation was inſtantly ſtopped. Diſappointed that the Duke of Portland was not placed at the head of the Treaſury, Mr. Fox, Lord Keppel, and Lord John Cavendiſh, immediately reſigned their ſituations, and were followed by Mr. Burke and all the principal leaders of that party in both Houſes of Parliament. The Earl of Shelburne was placed by the King, whoſe confidence he had particularly ſecured, at the head of the Treaſury, in the room of the Marquis of Rockingham; Mr. William Pitt ſucceeded Lord John Cavendiſh as chancellor of the Exchequer; Lord Howe was placed at the head of the Admiralty in the room of Lord Keppel; and Lord Grantham and Lord Sydney were appointed ſecretaries of ſtate.

The new adminiſtration were unjuſtly accuſed of an intention of continuing the American war, on the ground that they were willing to grant every thing the Americans demanded, ſhort of independence, without the full and unconditional acknowledgment of which, it was well known, peace could not be obtained. The acknowledgment of it on the part of Great Britain was, therefore, nothing more than admitting in words what was poſſeſſed in fact, and about which it would have been the very conſummation of national folly to have waſted more blood and treaſure. However, this imputation was ſoon done away by a peace with all the powers with whom we were at war, and by the acknowledgment of American independence, which preceded the ſigning of the preliminary articles.

It was farther objected againſt the adminiſtration, that it was not ſincere in purſuing its plan of parliamentary reform and the propoſed retrenchments of the public ex-

penditure. But, when it is recollected that the latter meaſure was firſt introduced into the Houſe of Commons by Colonel Barré, the confidential friend of the new miniſter, who repreſented one of his lordſhip's boroughs, and that it was ſupported in the Upper Houſe by Lord Shelburne himſelf, credit muſt be given him for the honourable intentions on that important ſubject. With reſpect to the part he took in the reform of the repreſentation, he had not, like the Duke of Richmond and Mr. Pitt, given a ſolemn pledge to the public, by placing himſelf at the head of any of the reforming ſocieties; nor did he originally propoſe the meaſure to either Houſe of Parliament. He has, however, always profeſſed his conviction of the neceſſity of that reform, and his moſt intimate friends have been the foremoſt on all occaſions to promote its ſucceſs.

The period of Lord Shelburne's adminiſtration, which was only nine months, including the prorogation of parliament, allowed him no time to effect more than he actually did accompliſh.

The unnatural and diſgraceful coalition which took place at this time between the Rockingham party and thoſe who had held the reins of government, from the reſignation of Lord Chatham's adminiſtration to the year 1782, under Lord North, forming a conſiderable majority of the members of both Houſes of Parliament, the Earl of Shelburne and his newly-formed miniſtry were compelled to reſign in December, 1783.* Mr. Fox, Lord John Cavendiſh, and Lord Keppel, now reſumed their former places; the Duke of Portland was placed at the head of the Treaſury; General Conway at that of the

* The Earl of Shelburne ſubmitted to the deciſion of the Houſe of Commons, which had paſſed a vote of diſapprobation on the treaty of peace, and reſigned his place to his opponents. It is ſaid, however, that a little relaxation in his principles and opinions would have enabled him to preſerve his majority; but he choſe to reſign rather than compromiſe *his honour* and his feelings.

the army; Lord North was made ſecretary of ſtate; Lord Stormont, preſident of the council; Lord Carliſle, privy-ſeal; and Lord Loughborough was put at the head of a commiſſion for holding the Great Seal.

The Earl of Shelburne now became the head of a new oppoſition which united his own immediate connections with a few of the Rockingham party, not included in the coalition, and the whole of that deſcription of politicians, who are diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of *the King's friends*.

To ſecure a majority in both Houſes, the coalition neither courted popularity nor paid great deference to the feelings of the court. A bill was brought into parliament for veſting the management of the whole concerns of the Eaſt-India Company, and the government of India, in ſeven commiſſioners and nine ſub-commiſſioners, to be elected periodically by the Houſe of Commons. This meaſure, it was eaſily perceived, would take the whole patronage of India out of the hands of the crown, and deprive the Company itſelf of the management of its own concerns, while it tended to throw ſuch a weight of influence into the ſcale of the exiſting miniſtry, as would enable their majority to appoint the Eaſt-India commiſſioners, and the Eaſt-India commiſſioners, in return, to elect the majority of the Houſe of Commons! The crown and the people felt, therefore, an equal intereſt in oppoſing this bill; and, while it was pending in the Houſe of Lords, after having paſſed the Houſe of Commons, his Majeſty ſuddenly diſmiſſed his miniſters!

At this eventful period, the whole country looked up to the Marquis of Lanſdown, expecting that he would re-aſſume the reins of Government; but, when the new adminiſtration was announced, no inconſiderable degree of ſurpriſe was occaſioned in the nation, to find that Mr. William Pitt, who had been chancellor of the Exchequer during the adminiſtration of his lordſhip, and who

was then only in the four-and-twentieth year of his age, was appointed firſt lord of the Treaſury as well as chancellor of the Exchequer; and that the Earl of Shelburne, who took the lead in the oppoſition to the coalition-adminiſtration, was entirely excluded from the new arrangements!

This circumſtance has been attributed to his having declined the reſponſibility of an adminiſtration formed in oppoſition to the ſenſe of that part of the Houſe of Commons which ſtill adhered to the diſmiſſed party; a difficulty which could only be ſurmounted by a diſſolution of parliament: others, however, attribute his being paſſed over to ſome juvenile intrigues of Mr. Pitt.

His lordſhip is ſaid to have called the new miniſtry a *rope of ſand*; and having, moreover, a very ſlender opinion of their talents, he did not chooſe to riſk his own great popularity by a connection with them. The coalition which formed it was alſo, in many reſpects, as monſtrous as that, headed by Meſſrs. Fox and North, which had juſt been driven from power. His lordſhip continued, however, for ſome years on good terms with the new miniſtry, and, beſides receiving for himſelf the titles of Marquis of Lanſdown and Earl of Wycombe, he obtained a well-earned proviſion for Colonel Barré and ſome other of his friends.

The MARQUIS of LANSDOWN now retired to the enjoyments of private life at his country-manſion in the ſtyle of a country-gentleman. The commencement of the preſent war, and the important events of the French revolution, firſt drew him from his retreat. Of this unfortunate conteſt, he has uniformly denied the juſtice and the neceſſity, in its origin as well as in every ſtage of its progreſs. He has, in conſequence, acted for ſeveral years in deciſive hoſtility to the miniſtry and their meaſures; and, though he ſtill keeps aloof from the party of Mr. Fox, yet their political opinions and ſympathies *appear to coincide*.

As a ſtateſman, the Marquis of Lanſdown is univerſally acknowledged to poſſeſs firſt-rate qualities. As a ſenator, he is the moſt intereſting and faſcinating ſpeaker in the Upper Houſe, and is ſecond to no one in the force of his arguments and in the poignancy of his ſatire; and, above all, for the deep information with which his ſpeeches abound. Though in the ſixty-firſt year of his age, he retains all the energy, the wit, and the acuteneſs of penetration,* which have ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed him through the whole of his brilliant and honourable career.

In domeſtic life, his lordſhip's favourite purſuits have always been architecture and the magnificent embelliſhment of his houſes. His palace in Berkeley-Square is eſteemed the moſt elegant and ſumptuous in Great Britain. All the cielings are painted by Cypriani, and the collection of paintings and other decorations are by the greateſt maſters. The furniture alone is eſtimated to be worth one hundred thouſand pounds; and, ſuch is the fondneſs of the owner for this kind of excellence, that artiſts of various deſcriptions are always employed about the premiſes in making additions and improvements.

His library is a *chef-d'œuvre*. It is one hundred and ten feet in length, and ornamented with the moſt valuable Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman ſtatues. The cieling is painted by Cypriani from the antiquities found in Herculaneum. The collection of books is worthy of this magnificent apartment and honourable to the taſte of the owner. It conſiſts of about ten thouſand volumes of the moſt valuable books, in all languages, which are arranged in a claſſical and ſcientific manner. It is moſt complete, and

* In perſon, he has often been admired for the dignity of his deportment and the intelligence of his countenance. Many perſons have conceived that a ſtrong general likeneſs exiſted between him and the unfortunate Louis the Sixteenth; there is, doubtleſs, more expreſſion and force in the features of the Marquis. He has, for many years, been a martyr to *repeated attacks of the* gout; but theſe have not diminiſhed his flow *of ſpirits and his* attachment to books and the arts.

and perhaps *unique* in the extent of its political collection, and as containing every work which has been publiſhed in France and England on the ſubject of the French revolution.

His lordſhip's firſt wife was the daughter of the late Earl Granville, by whom he has only one ſon living, viz. the preſent Earl of Wycombe, a patriotic member of parliament for the borough of High Wycombe. His ſecond lady was Lady Louiſa Fitzpatrick, ſiſter to the preſent Earl of Oſſory and the Dowager Lady Holland, mother to the preſent Lord Holland, by whom he has another ſon, Lord John Henry Petty, now in the 19th year of his age.

This diſtinguiſhed nobleman poſſeſſes the immenſe fortune accumulated by his great-grandfather, and he has always expended it with princely liberality.* He is a moſt generous patron of the arts and literature, and many inſtances might eaſily be enumerated of his bounties to deſerving and diſtreſſed men of letters. Few characters in the political walks of life have ſuſtained that conſiſtency of conduct and principle which has marked the life of this illuſtrious perſonage; but, as it is the fate of all great men to have powerful rivals and enemies, he has not been exempted from his ſhare of their impotent reproach. His patriotic conduct during the American war; his neceſſary peace of 1783; his ſubſequent ſubmiſſion to a deciſion of the Houſe of Commons; his manly oppoſition to a war which has threatened the very exiſtence of the country; his able ſpeeches in parliament, during a period of thirty-eight years; and his munificence of his own elegant purſuits; will become his faithful eulogium when the ſenſeleſs turbulency and calumny of parties are forgotten. A. D.

SIR

* His rent-roll is ſaid formerly to have been £35,000 per annum.

SIR JOHN PARNELL,

EX-CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER IN IRELAND.

THIS gentleman, whoſe late diſmiſſion from office has been the ſubject of converſation in the parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland, is the grand-nephew of the late Dean Parnell, author of the Hermit, &c. whoſe memory is alſo perpetuated by an excellent Parian marble buſto placed in the library of Trinity-College, Dublin.

The honour of a baronetage was conferred upon this gentleman's father by his preſent Majeſty November 3d, 1766: the title deſcended to Sir John about the year 1783. Soon after this gentleman attained the age of manhood, he was returned to ſerve in the Iriſh parliament for Queen's county, for which county he ſtill continues to be one of the ſitting members.

In the late Earl of Northington's adminiſtration, Sir John Parnell was appointed one of the commiſſioners of Cuſtoms and Exciſe; and, as ſuch offices do not exclude gentlemen from the parliament of the ſiſter-kingdom, Sir John continued to give his aſſiſtance to the adminiſtration in the Iriſh ſenate.

For a ſeries of years a great intimacy has exiſted between Sir John and Mr. Foſter, ſpeaker of the Iriſh Houſe of Commons, whom he is known to have conſulted upon every queſtion of great national concern, and whoſe ſucceſſor he became in the important office of chancellor of the Exchequer, in the year 1786, under the adminiſtration of the late Duke of Rutland.

Sir John continued to diſcharge the duties of this ſtation for ten years, under the ſucceſſive adminiſtrations of the Duke of Rutland, Marquis of Buckingham, and Earl Weſtmorland, with unſhaken ſteadineſs. Upon the arrival

rival of Earl Fitzwilliam, in 1795, he co-operated with Mr. Grattan and the other members of the Oppoſition, who then came into power. He thus ſecured his continuance in office during the ſhort-lived adminiſtration of that illuſtrious nobleman, and alſo during that of Earl Camden, and part of that of the Marquis Cornwallis, by whom he has, however, been recently diſmiſſed.

When the important queſtion of an incorporating legiſlative union between Great Britain and Ireland was introduced into the Iriſh parliament, Sir John Parnell was diſintereſtedly againſt the adoption, or even introduction, of the meaſure. The reſult was, that he was diſmiſſed from his office by the Marquis Cornwallis, and a ſucceſſor appointed in the perſon of Mr. Corry.

He is now nearly fifty years of age, married a daughter of the late Sir Arthur Brooke, Bart. and has ſeveral children; his principal country-reſidence is at Rathleague, near Maryborough, in Queen's county. Upon the death of a near relation, in the year 1796, he ſucceeded to one of the moſt beautiful and highly-cultivated eſtates in Ireland, called Avon-Dale, in the county of Wicklow, for many years poſſeſſed by that amiable and much-valued character, the late Samuel Hayes, Eſq. who, dying without iſſue, bequeathed this ſmall eſtate, for many years the conſtant care, delight and pride of his life, to his worthy relation, the preſent Sir John Parnell. W. Y.

MR. ROBERT SOUTHEY.

THE ſubject of the preſent memoir, though a very young perſon, and of a retired diſpoſition, is juſtly entitled to a place among the public characters of this country, being well known as a man of letters, but more particularly as a poet. His largeſt poem, Joan of Arc, was written by him at an earlier period than Lucan wrote his

his Pharſalia. Like the Roman poet, too, the author is a ſtrenuous aſſertor of liberty.

Mr. Robert Southey was born at Briſtol, Auguſt the 12th, 1774. His father was a linen-draper in that town, a man who had been ſo accuſtomed to regulate his motions by the neighbouring-clock, that the clock might at length (ſo punctual were his movements) have been regulated by him. He was, alſo, extremely fond of the country and its employments.

The ſpirit of the father reſted on the ſon; for, the father's favourite inſtructions to all around him were, to tie the ſtockings up tight, and to be punctual. Robert, to this day, is ſaid to tie up his ſtockings very tight, even unwholeſomely, and in engagements is punctual to a minute. His poetry, too, is very converſant in rural objects. The father, though a worthy man, was unfortunate, and died of a broken heart in conſequence of embarraſſments.

At ſix years of age, young Southey went to the ſchool kept by Mr. Foot, at Briſtol, and which is now ably managed by Mr. Eſtlin, and one of the moſt reſpectable diſſenting academies in this country. At the death of Mr. Foot, he was removed to Carſton, near Bath. He left Carſton when he was eight years of age. The re-viſiting of this place gave birth to ſome of thoſe feelings expreſſed in that pleaſing poem, entitled the *Retroſpect*, publiſhed in a volume, printed in 1795, the joint production of our author and his friend Robert Lovel.

Southey continued at a day-ſchool in Briſtol till he was thirteen years of age, and wrote rhymes when he was but ten. He was alſo taught by his aunt to reliſh Shakeſpeare and Beaumont and Fletcher. For one year he was under a clergyman who taught a ſelect number of pupils for a few hours in the morning. At fourteen, he was removed to Weſtminſter-School.

At this ſchool he continued, in the practice of the public ſchools, to write bad Latin verſes; his Engliſh verſes

were

were more decent, and indicated, that the author might, in future life, reach excellence. He continued to abide by his father's rules for punctuality, and is ſaid never to have undergone any corporal puniſhment; he, however, it ſeems, poſſeſſed ſympathies with ſuch as did, and wrote ſome eſſays in a periodical paper entitled the Flagellant.

Robert was entered at Baliol-College, Oxford, in November, 1792. His turn of mind was ſerious, his affection ardent, and he became a republican. He, to this day, is proud of being thought a republican, and not without reaſon. For, (contrary to the opinion of ſome,) politics, the moſt important of morals, is in a high degree favourable to poetic genius; and ſome of the beſt poets have been the moſt enlightened advocates of freedom. The book that moſt influenced his judgment was Mr. Godwin's Political Juſtice. In the ſummer of this year, he became acquainted with Mr. Coleridge, a ſtudent at that time of Jeſus' College, Cambridge, and who was then on a viſit to a friend at Oxford. Coleridge, no leſs than Southey, poſſeſſed a ſtrong paſſion for poetry. They commenced, like two young poets, an enthuſiaſtic friendſhip, and, in connection with others, ſtruck out a plan for ſettling in America, and for having all things in common. This ſcheme they called Pantiſocracy, of which, however viſionary it may be thought by ſome, Southey ſtill approves the theory.

Southey firſt became acquainted with Lovel in 1793. The three young poetical friends, Lovel, Southey, and Coleridge, married three ſiſters. Southey is attached to domeſtic life, and, fortunately, was very happy in his matrimonial connection. He married in November, 1795, juſt before he left England to accompany his uncle to Spain and Portugal. He continued abroad ſix months.

Of his religious ſentiments we ſhall ſay but little. Poets are often the children of fancy rather than of reaſon; and, whether they are Deiſts, Socinians, or Calviniſts, correct

reſt inquirers will not regulate their judgments by the writings of poets. It ſeems, however, Southey was once a Deiſt; then he became a Socinian; though ſeveral ſentiments contained in the Joan of Arc are ſcarcely reconcilable with the belief of a Socinian. Whatever his religious perſuaſions, however, may be, he is tolerant in principle, and deſtitute of bigotry; he ſhuns cloſe argument, and profeſſes to know little of metaphyſics. Whatever his opinions may be for the time, he never conceals them, and is cautious that other people ſhould not miſtake them.

All his intellectual endowments he profeſſes to owe to his mother's uncle, chaplain to the factory at Liſbon, a man of a moſt excellent character, of whom Mr. Southey always ſpeaks with that ſenſe of gratitude, which argues a good heart. It was with this gentleman that Mr. Southey travelled into Spain and Portugal.

He is now member of Gray's Inn, though he principally reſides in the country; and is at preſent engaged in writing an epic poem, entitled Madoc, which he intends to keep under correction for ſeveral years.

It is in the cloſet where we ſhould contemplate ſuch a character as Robert Southey. We muſt not look for great variety of incidents in the hiſtory of a young man, now only twenty-five years of age, immerſed in reading, and impaſſionately attached to poetry. We will then cloſe with a ſhort account of his writings.

In the year 1795, he publiſhed his firſt volume of poems, in connection with his friend Robert Lovel, the former aſſuming the name of Moſchus, the latter of Bion. Without noticing any particular blemiſhes that maturer judgment would have corrected, ſome of which, in ſubſequent volumes, are now corrected, it may be proper, in general to ſay, that the ſonnets to Ariſte are pretty; and the Retroſpect and Ode to Romance have conſiderable merit. On reading the poems of Robert Lovel, the admirers

mirers of poetry will lament his early death; for, unqueſtionably, he had a poetical mind. His ſonnets to Happineſs and Fame are particularly excellent.

In the year 1796, Mr. Southey publiſhed his Joan of Arc, an epic poem, in ten books. It would be improper to inquire into its particular beauties and defects here. If examined by the rules laid down by Ariſtotle for the epic, it will be found defective. But, it might be aſked, are Ariſtotle's the invariable rules for the epic? Are they to be the eternal law? And has no other poet ventured to go againſt them? Theſe are queſtions not to be urged here. Without pretending to fix the character of Joan of Arc by the ordinary rules of the epic, without enquiring into the truth of the theology, the juſtice of the repreſentations, and the like, we conſider the Joan of Arc to poſſeſs great beauties that cannot fail to pleaſe all the lovers of poetry; and, provided they do not forget they are reading the writings of a mere poet, (for, the poet always claimed the power of raiſing ſpirits, conjuring up viſions, or making gods and goddeſſes, and even devils, at his pleaſure,) they may juſtly be delighted with the ſimplicity and richneſs of the deſcriptions, the harmony of the numbers, the amiable ſpirit of benevolence, and the love of liberty, ſo prominent in Joan of Arc.

This poem (ſurpriſing as it may be thought) was written, Mr. Southey tells us in his preface, in ſix weeks. Whatever, therefore, its faults may be, though haſte, ſimply conſidered, is never allowed by ſtrict criticiſm to be an apology for negligence,) yet when it is recollected, that it was the almoſt-extemporaneous production of a young man, writing for bread, great allowances will be made; though, indeed, before it was brought into its preſent ſhape, it underwent more than ordinary correction, and was twice written over again. The verſe is heroic or Iambic verſe, of ten ſyllables without rhyme, called by us blank verſe,

and

and is, generally ſpeaking, excellent of its kind. The ſecond edition makes two elegant volumes.

The next volume of poems, publiſhed by Southey, contains the productions of very diſtant periods. They poſſeſs different degrees of merit; for, where a perſon writes with that uncommon rapidity with which Mr. Southey compoſes, he will not always write like himſelf. The Triumph of Woman is a fine poem. The Sonnets on the Slave-Trade breathe much benevolence, and do the author great honour. The lyric poems, though poſſeſſed of a good deal of the fire of poetry, are yet defective in many of thoſe qualities required of that moſt poliſhed and uſeful, though difficult, ſpecies of poetry, by which Mr. Southey has thought proper to denominate them, Lyric. Some of them ſhould rather have been called *copies* of verſes, a name commonly given to little pieces written on the ſpur of the moment, and reducible to no diſtinct claſs.—MARY is a very affecting narrative, and juſtly admired.

In the year 1799, he publiſhed another volume of poems with this motto:

> The better pleaſe, the worſe diſpleaſe, I aſk no more.
>
> SPENSER.

Theſe are, for the moſt part, of the ſtory or ballad kind, and imitative of the ſtyle of the old Engliſh ballads. Of this number are, the Complaints of the Poor, the Croſs-Roads, the Sailor who had ſerved in the Slave-Trade, &c. This volume alſo contains the Viſions of the Maid of Orleans, in three Books, which compoſed the ninth book of the firſt edition of Joan of Arc, and formed what Mr. Southey called the original ſin of the poem. Conſidered as mere poetry, theſe three books poſſeſs many beauties.

Another volume of poems has juſt made its appearance, entitled THE ANNUAL ANTHOLOGY, of which Mr.

Mr. Southey wrote a great part. It is a miſcellaneous compoſition, though entirely poetical, and written by different authors. The other contributors are, Mr. Taylor, of Norwich, Mr. Charles Lloyd, Mrs. Opie, Mr. George Dyer, Mr. Joſeph Cottle, Mr. Charles Lamb, the late Mr. Robert Lovel, Mr. A. S. Cottle, Mr. Humphrey Davy, and Dr. Beddoes.

This volume is entirely original, with the exception of ſome pieces that made their appearance in the Morning Poſt; and, being compoſed by perſons of different taſtes, muſt of courſe poſſeſs conſiderable variety. Every reader, therefore, who has a reliſh for poetry, may expect to find ſomething ſuited to his taſte in the Annual Anthology; for, it unqueſtionably contains many excellent compoſitions.

It remains, juſt to ſay a word of the only proſe work written by Mr. Southey, which comprehends his travels, entitled Letters written during a ſhort Reſidence in Spain and Portugal. This work has been well received, and a ſecond edition has been publiſhed not long ſince.

The moſt curious part of this work relates to the Spaniſh and Portugueſe poetry. In all countries, as Mr. Southey properly obſerves, "the era of genius has preceded that of taſte; and taſte has not yet been reached by the Spaniſh and Portugueſe poets." Genius they have undoubtedly poſſeſſed, as may be ſeen in the La Hermoſura de Angelica, an heroic poem, by Lope Felix de Vega Carpio, of which Mr. Southey has given a fair and large ſpecimen; and the Luſiad, of which we have an Engliſh tranſlation, by Mr. Mickle. The Diana of George of Mountemayer, from the beautiful ſpecimen given by Mr. Southey, proves the author to have been a man of an elegant fancy. But the characters of the Spaniards and Portugueſe are ſtrongly marked by extravagance and ſuperſtition, and ſo is their poetry. Yet, all things conſidered, more particularly the terrors of their government, and the gloomineſs of their religion, we are rather

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ſurpriſed that the Spaniards and Portugueſe ſhould have done ſo much, even in poetry, than that they have not done more. And their poetical compoſitions, amidſt much futility and extravagance, contain many things that the curious will like to peruſe, and which the ingenious cannot fail to admire. The ſecond edition of Mr. Southey's letters is unaccompanied with his tranſlations of Spaniſh and Portugueſe poetry. Theſe, we are happy to hear, are to form a diſtinct volume; and, when enlarged and adorned by Mr. Southey's remarks, cannot fail of being favourably received by the public. E. R.

DOCTOR PATRICK DUIGENAN.

THIS gentleman is a moſt intereſting ſubject to the ſpeculative and philoſophic reader. His mind is not ſo much of a novel, as of an obſolete, caſt; for, from ſome ſtrange combination of circumſtances, ſome odd admixture of ingredients in his temperature, he ſeems capable of feeling no ſentiment, of uttering no thought, but thoſe which would have befitted a monkiſh polemic of three centuries back. His very language and look partake of this complexion of mind; and one might know, either from his diction or his face, that he was deſigned for ſome of thoſe ages which are gone by, where the religious zealot evinced the purity of his faith by the foulneſs of his language, and diſplayed the Chriſtian charity of his heart by intolerance and perſecution.

Of the family from which Dr. Patrick Duigenan deſcended nothing is generally known; but, from the very ſound of the name, it is obvious it muſt have been perfectly Iriſh; nor would it be raſh to infer, that it muſt have been Catholic as well as Iriſh. For, though there are conſiderable numbers of that name in the country, yet not in one inſtance of one hundred is it found to de-

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ſignate a proteſtant or a ſectary. It is among the felicities of the Doctor, therefore, that his talents and his virtues are not obſcured by the ſplendour of anceſtry, and that his ſtrong attachment to the eſtabliſhed church and Proteſtant aſcendancy cannot be attributed to early prejudice.

Dr. Duigenan was educated in the Univerſity of Dublin, in which he is ſaid originally to have entered a ſizer. —His induſtry was ſucceſſively rewarded with a ſcholarſhip and fellowſhip; but whether it was that he did not at that time feel the ſame affection for the church which he has ſince manifeſted, or that he had a ſtronger predilection for a life of conteſt than of peace, he obtained leave to ſtudy law rather than take orders. He continued one of the two lay-fellows who alone are permitted in Dublin-College by its ſtatutes, until Mr. Hely Hutchinſon was appointed provoſt. On the acceſſion of that gentleman to the government of the univerſity, Dr. Duigenan conceived for him the moſt invincible antipathy; it appeared in every act, and pervaded the whole tenor of his conduct. Whatever might have been the demerits of Mr. Hutchinſon, he had at leaſt the praiſe of being a gentleman highly poliſhed, of an elegant mind, and conſiderable acquirements in polite literature. Theſe qualities, however, were not fitted to mitigate the fierce diſlike which the Doctor had conceived of his new head, and he accordingly preferred quitting the college on the firſt opportunity, to paying an unwilling obedience to the man he hated. The Doctor, however, did not recede in ſilence from his antagoniſt; he publiſhed a tract entitled *Lachrymæ Academicæ*, in which he attacked the provoſt with the moſt violent invective, and he ſought, and it is ſaid obtained, an opportunity of giving him the groſſeſt perſonal inſult. The provoſt paſſed over both with great compoſure, and the anger of his enemy expired from want of fire to feed it.

After

After Dr. Duigenan's retirement from college, he retained his place of lecturer in civil law, and ſome time afterward was appointed an eccleſiaſtical judge. His adherence to the old high-church principles finally procured him a ſeat in parliament, when the increaſing liberality of public feeling made it likely that thoſe principles might need an advocate to ſupport them. Sent to the ſenate by clerical influence, Dr. Duigenan has never forgotten what he owes to his patrons, nor has he at any time omitted an occaſion of inculcating, on the Houſe and on the public, the virtues, the poverty, and the loyalty of the clergy, or of holding out popery and ſectaries as the enemies of God and of religion, of moral duty and of good government. It is not only againſt papiſts and ſectaries, as ſuch, that the cauſtic eloquence of Dr. Duigenan is directed; the Iriſh as diſtinguiſhed from the Britiſh ſettler, and their deſcendants in Ireland, are equally, at times, the ſmarting victims of his tongue; even a name ſounding like that of an Iriſhman, or an Iriſh Catholic, furniſhes a theme for the parliamentary invective of the learned Doctor. The unfortunate name of *Keogh*, which belonged to a man ſometime active in the cauſe of emancipation and reform, has more than once been pronounced by Dr. Patrick Duigenan in a manner and a tone, which, while it entertained a ſenate, ſpoke his contempt and ſcorn for Iriſh gutturals.

It would be doing great injuſtice to this learned gentleman to inſinuate, that he is an indolent ſenator, except when the concerns of the church call for his exertions; the fact is, he is one of the moſt zealous ſupporters of the Iriſh adminiſtration, and the moſt devoted enemy of ſedition in every form; but it muſt be acknowledged, that his powers are moſt happily raiſed when the intereſts of the clergy combine with the ſafety of the ſtate, and when he labours at once for God and for his country. Hence it is, that he calls forth his fineſt figures, and flames

with moſt heat, when he oppoſes ſuch a man as Mr. Grattan, who ſo miſtakingly would engraft religious freedom on civil liberty. Indeed, againſt ſuch men as Mr. Grattan, the Doctor delights to pit himſelf. Even when that gentleman had retired from parliament, his addreſs to his conſtituents, and ſome other trifles which appeared in public under his name, excited the attention and rouſed the fire of the Doctor. He attacked them in a pamphlet ſo much in the Doctor's ſtrong way, ſo vehement, we do not ſay ſo ſcurrilous and ſo abuſive, that Mr. Grattan thought himſelf called upon to give the gentleman, who had taken ſo much offence at him, ſome other way of obtaining ſatisfaction than mere writing would afford him; he accordingly left London, went to Dublin, and, after publiſhing an advertiſement in moſt of the London and Dublin papers, in which he applied the ſtrongeſt epithets of contempt to the Doctor's publication, gave notice, that for a certain number of days, in the advertiſement mentioned, he ſhould be found at Kearns's Hotel, in Kildare-Street. The Doctor, however, on this occaſion, ſhewed himſelf a well-diſpoſed ſubject, who could not eaſily be perſuaded to break the peace: he exerted no ſagacity in finding out Mr. Grattan's meaning, and Mr. G. knowing perhaps the danger of giving an eccleſiaſtical judge a more explicit declaration of it, returned after ſome time to England.

It is remarkable, that Dr. Duigenan is at preſent a widower:—his wife was a very rigid Catholic; and, notwithſtanding the vehemence of his declaration againſt popery, and his ſtrong oppoſition to every popiſh claim, he kept conſtantly, during his wife's life, a Catholic prieſt in his houſe, as her confeſſor and chaplain. He is ſtill a healthy ſtrong man, though in declining years. W. E.

MR.

MR. GEORGE PONSONBY.

THAT reſpect which great talents are always ſure to meet from the public, when exerted in their ſervice, Mr. Ponſonby has uniformly received; and, however he may at different times have aſcended or fallen in the ſcale of popularity, his vigorous underſtanding and uncommon powers have invariably procured for him a diſtinguiſhed place in the public eſtimation.

Mr. Ponſonby is deſcended from a family who have been long conſpicuous in the political hiſtory of Ireland: —he is the ſecond ſon of the late Right Honourable John Ponſonby, who for ſeveral years filled the important office of Speaker of the Iriſh Houſe of Commons, and who was truly ſuppoſed to poſſeſs the greateſt degree of influence poſſeſſed by any commoner, perhaps by any man, in the management of the ſiſter-country. After receiving a very excellent ſchool-education, Mr. Ponſonby was ſent to the Univerſity of Cambridge, where, without the affectation of remarkable induſtry or ſecluſion, he laid in a ſtock of claſſical and general learning, which has ſince contributed to render him one of the brighteſt, if not the moſt ſhining ornament of the Iriſh ſenate. In the year 1780, he was called to the Iriſh bar; and, like moſt other gentlemen who come to the bar with an independent fortune, did not for ſome time diſtinguiſh himſelf by either great legal learning or ſingular induſtry in profeſſional purſuits. His connection, however, with the men in power under the Marquis of Rockingham's adminiſtration, procured for Mr. Ponſonby the favour and patronage of the Duke of Portland, on his appointment to the vice-royalty of Ireland, in 1782. Under the auſpices of that nobleman, he was preſented with a ſilk gown, though only a barriſter of two years ſtanding, and at the ſame time was appointed firſt counſel to the Commiſſioners of

the Revenue, a place of which the ſalary and emoluments together are eſtimated at about 1200*l.* per ann. The ſyſtem of government in Ireland is thought to require, that he, who holds a place equally valuable with that which had been conferred on Mr. Ponſonby, ſhould alſo have a ſeat in parliament, and ſupport with his vote at leaſt, if not with his talents, the meaſures of adminiſtration:—Mr. Ponſonby was accordingly brought into the Houſe of Commons, and, agreeably to the tenure of his office, uniformly voted with the Miniſter, though it muſt be acknowledged he did not exert himſelf in the ſupport of adminiſtration in any other way. Indeed, both as a ſenator and a lawyer, Mr. Ponſonby, during this period of his life, may be fairly charged with indolence; he was neither aſſiduous in his profeſſional buſineſs, nor anxious to evince his attachment to his patrons, by any ſhew of talents or of zeal in his parliamentary character. Always fond of the ſports and exerciſes of the field, the greater part of his time was devoted to the chace, and thoſe convivial pleaſures with which it is generally followed.

During the interval between the adminiſtration of the Duke of Portland, which began and ended in 1782, and the adminiſtration of the Marquis of Buckingham, which commenced in 1788, Mr. Ponſonby continued to enjoy his place and his pleaſures in eaſy indolence. The Marquis, however, who made many patriots courtiers, made alſo ſome courtiers patriots:—of theſe latter, Mr. Ponſonby was one. The Marquis diſmiſſed him from office, and appointed in his place Mr. Marcus Beresford, of the all-powerful houſe of that name in Ireland. So conſiderable a diminution as this occaſioned in Mr. P.'s income, to which his having now got a family had rather made an increaſe neceſſary, rendered it incumbent on him to exert himſelf with more vigour than hitherto. He now therefore ſeriouſly began to cultivate his profeſſion, nor was it long before he aſſumed that rank as a lawyer which

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his maſculine and correct underſtanding entitled him to hold. In a little time buſineſs poured in upon him, with a rapidity which proved how high his character for talents ſtood with the public: and in parliament, too, he now began to diſplay thoſe rare qualifications for debate which have obtained for him the well-founded reputation of being the firſt parliamentary orator in the Iriſh Houſe of Commons. The Marquis of Buckingham, too late, was enabled to calculate the amount of his loſs in exchanging the talents of Mr. Ponſonby for thoſe of Mr. Beresford; nor did he find that loſs compenſated even by the ſmooth and ſuperficial eloquence of Mr. Corry, whoſe ſupport of his meaſures had followed his recent promotion to a place in the Ordnance. Againſt the meaſures of this adminiſtration, Mr. Ponſonby, in concert with a very reſpectable and numerous oppoſition, called forth all his powers; —nor was there one of the many topics of declamation or complaint againſt the Viceroy, which he did not repeatedly urge and aggravate, with all the force which argument or eloquence could lend, to haſten his retreat from the government. Of theſe topics, the principal was, the expenſe and rapidly-increaſing corruption of adminiſtration, evinced by the then ſtate of government-patronage in the Houſe of Commons, where, out of three hundred members, there were one hundred and ten who enjoyed places and penſions under the crown. This cauſe of complaint the Marquis himſelf had greatly aggravated, by adding fourteen new placemen to the exiſting number, for whom ſituations were created by increaſing the number of members at ſome of the public boards, and by dividing among two or more the duties and ſalaries of offices which had till then been filled by one individual.

In 1789, the melancholy occaſion of the King's illneſs created a new ſource of diſcord between the Miniſter and Oppoſition, in the queſtion on the appointment of a re-

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gent. Of this opportunity of evincing the attachment to the popular cauſe, Mr. Ponſonby took care to avail himſelf by maintaining with great ſtrength of argument, and, as appeared by the event, with great ſucceſs, the excluſive right of Ireland to nominate its own regent on the ſuſpenſion of the royal functions. Mr. Grattan was in this conteſt the powerful co-adjutor of Mr. Ponſonby. The Iriſh Commons yielded to the joint exertions of the powers of thoſe two diſtinguiſhing ſenators, or rather perhaps to the deluſive proſpects which they conceived now opened to them, of pre-occupying the favour of a new ſovereign, by protecting his rights againſt the mutilating hand of the Miniſter. The Prince of Wales was invited to aſſume the regency, unclogged by any reſtrictions whatſoever; and the viceroy, who, under the influence of his relation Mr. Pitt, had adopted the other ſide of this queſtion, mortified by his diſconception, and the ſtill more mortifying circumſtances which attended it, withdrew from the government.

The triumph of the Oppoſition, however, was very ſhort-lived: the happy reſtoration of the King's health ſoon taught the majority of that body the folly of their ſpeculation, and induced many of them to atone, by very humiliating conceſſions, for having differed from the Miniſter. Mr. Ponſonby was not of this number; his opinion on the queſtion of regency remained unchanged, his oppoſition to the ſyſtem purſued in the adminiſtration of Ireland was proſecuted with unabated vigour, and his exertions to expoſe and to defeat it continued to diſplay as much zeal and vehemence, as when the hope of ſucceſs in that attempt had been moſt flattering.

In conſequence either of theſe continued efforts of Oppoſition to expoſe the corruption and incapacity of the government, or of that incapacity and corruption reſorting to meaſures which goaded the Iriſh people to ſedition

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and revolt, it is certain that diſcontent and diſaffection began to grow in Ireland from the period we ſpeak of, until it finally burſt forth in the rebellion of 1798. Mr. Ponſonby's pertinacity, and that of thoſe with whom he acted in Parliament, in continuing to reprobate the ſyſtem on which the Iriſh government was conducted, and the unyielding, coercive, and obſtinate ſpirit, with which the Miniſter puniſhed, inſtead of attempting to reclaim, the miſled, has, from the current of public opinion running the other way, induced a temporary obſcuration on his political character. Mr. Ponſonby, however, ſtill preſerves a conſiſtent ſteadineſs of opinion and conduct on this head, diſregarding what imputations the madneſs or the prejudice of irritated party-ſpirit may attempt to throw upon his principles or his motives.

Of Mr. Ponſonby's oratorical exertions, the great features are ſimplicity and ſtrength. His language is conſtantly the moſt plain and the moſt preciſe, unadorned by any of thoſe rhetorical flouriſhes, which much more frequently weaken the effect of a popular addreſs, rather than render it more impreſſive. He ſeldom deigns even to uſe a metaphor; but, when he does, he ſelects always thoſe which are ſtrong and obvious. His ſentences are generally ſhort, and he is not very faſtidious in avoiding a repetition of the ſame idea when he wiſhes to impreſs it ſtrongly on the mind of his auditory, or when there is any thing in its nature which may make it liable to be miſunderſtood. The matter of his ſpeeches is generally of the beſt kind, ſelected by a ſtrong underſtanding, under the guidance of plain ſenſe, from an extenſive knowledge of politics and of mankind. It is chiefly, however, in a debate that Mr. Ponſonby is celebrated; and he certainly poſſeſſes, in a very eminent degree, either the *knack* or the *ſcience* of expoſing and refuting the arguments of an adverſary. In this, his great memory is of the laſt importance to him. He never

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takes notes, and yet will frequently recapitulate and anſwer, nearly in the ſame order in which they were delivered, all the arguments which have been urged by his antagoniſts in a debate of twelve or fourteen hours. It muſt be obſerved of Mr. P. that he ſtrictly obſerves the rule given by Cicero to his orator, and paſſes over, in perfect ſilence, the arguments which he cannot *well* anſwer. He notices only the feeble or the falſe parts of his opponent's reaſoning; and, as he always makes it a point to cloſe the debate, he thus is ſure to attract from his audience, on all occaſions, the plaudits of victory.—Mr. P. is now ſomewhat above forty years old, his perſon inclining to plethoric, and the caſt of his countenance ſtrong and coarſe.

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP.

THIS determined opponent of African ſlavery, and true patriot, is a grandſon of the celebrated Dr. Sharp, archbiſhop of York, who, in the arbitrary reign of James the Second, ſo honourably diſtinguiſhed himſelf as the champion of the Proteſtant religion and of the liberties of his country. Dr. Sharp, immediately after the acceſſion of King William, was made a biſhop, and afterwards tranſlated to the archbiſhopric of York, and he continued to be the zealous defender of the liberties of his country during the whole period of his valuable life.

His ſon, the father of Mr. Granville Sharp, was Dean of Durham, and emulated the pious zeal of his father, which he has tranſmitted, with all its luſtre, to that benevolent character who is the ſubject of this memoir.

If any man of the preſent day deſerves the name of philanthropiſt, it is Mr. Granville Sharp; ſince his whole

whole life has been one continued ſtruggle to improve the condition of mankind, ſometimes by his literary labours, and, at other times, by the more active ſervices of benevolence. To commiſerate the unfortunate, in him, ſeems to be a radical inſtinct, which, by its force, overpowers thoſe cold and prudential maxims, by which the conduct of the generality are too often regulated. As for thoſe prejudices, which would exclude the oppreſſed of any country, condition, or complexion, from the rights of humanity, to him they are entirely unknown. The African torn from his country, and the ſailor from his home, have ever found in him an eloquent and ſucceſsful advocate. In his treatiſe on the Injuſtice and dangerous Tendency of tolerating Slavery, his arguments, though ſometimes diffuſe, are ſtrong and convincing. In this work he clearly proves, that the law of nature, deduced from philoſophical reaſonings, ſuppoſes an equality among all mankind, independent of the laws of ſociety; nor can any ſocial compact ſuppoſe one man to ſurrender his liberty, with the propriety of his perſon, up to any other,—a barter for which he can receive nothing in exchange of equal value. One circumſtance which contributed greatly to call the attention of Mr. Granville Sharp to the conſideration of ſlavery, and its evil effects on ſociety, as it is curious, and developes in a high degree the excellent qualities of his heart, ſhall be here fully related. It has this peculiarity, alſo, that on its merits the law of England was aſcertained, concerning the right to freedom of every perſon treading on Engliſh ſoil: about which, many eminent lawyers had entertained different opinions. The caſe is this:—A poor negro-lad, of the name of Somerſet, labouring under a diſorder that had been deemed incurable, and which had deprived him of his ſight, was abandoned by his owner as an uſeleſs article of property, and turned into the ſtreets of London to ſupport his miſerable exiſtence by precarious charity.

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The poor creature, in this deſtitute and forlorn condition, was expiring on the pavement of one of the moſt public ſtreets in London. Mr. Sharp chanced to paſs that way. This gentleman beheld him with that ſympathy which is characteriſtic of his benevolent diſpoſition. He cauſed him to be immediately removed to Saint Bartholomew's Hoſpital, attended perſonally to his wants, and had the happineſs, in a ſhort time, to ſee him reſtored, by proper medical aſſiſtance and food, to the full enjoyment of his health and ſight. The hand of beneficence extended ſtill farther its foſtering care; Mr. Sharp clothed him, and procured him a comfortable employment in the ſervice of a lady of his acquaintance. Two years elapſed: the circumſtance and even the name of the poor negro had eſcaped the memory of his benefactor, when Mr. Sharp received a letter from a perſon of the name of *Somerſet*, confined in the Poultry-Compter, ſtating no cauſe for his commitment, but humbly entreating the protection of that goodneſs, which had formerly preſerved his life, to ſave him from a greater calamity. The humanity of Mr. Granville Sharp led him inſtantly to the priſon, where he found the ſame poor negro who had been the object of his former compaſſion. His maſter, by whom he had been diſcarded in ſickneſs and miſery, and who had abandoned him to the world as an unſerviceable and dying creature, ſeeing him accidentally behind the carriage of the lady to whom Mr. Sharp had recommended him as a ſervant, and perceiving that he had recovered his health and ſtrength, ſeized him in the ſtreet, pulled him down from the chariot, and cauſed him to be ſent to priſon as a run-away ſlave. Mr. Sharp waited immediately upon the lord-mayor, who cauſed the maſter and the poor negro to be ſummoned before him. That upright and well-informed magiſtrate decided that the maſter had no property in the perſon of the negro in this country: and that, conſequently, as

there

there was no other charge againſt him, he was perfectly free, and at liberty to depart wherever he pleaſed. The maſter inſtantly, however, ſeized the unfortunate black by the collar in the preſence of Mr. Sharp and the lord-mayor, and inſiſted on his right to keep him as his property. Mr. Sharp claimed the protection of the Engliſh law againſt the maſter, and, cauſing him to be taken into immediate cuſtody, exhibited articles of the peace againſt him for an aſſault and battery. The lord-mayor took cognizance of the charge, and the maſter was committed and compelled to find bail for his appearance at the ſeſſions to take his trial for the offence. Thus the great queſtion of ſlavery, which involved the honor of England as well as the fate of thouſands, was brought fairly before an Engliſh court of juſtice. A *certiorari* was obtained to remove the cauſe into the court of King's Bench, whence it was ſubmitted to the twelve judges, who unanimouſly concurred in opinion, that the maſter had acted criminally, and thereby emancipated for ever the race of blacks from a ſtate of ſlavery while they remained on Britiſh ground!

Having ſucceeded ſo well in the firſt inſtance, his mind was naturally led on to farther endeavours to benefit the condition of oppreſſed Africans. He obſerved many of theſe people begging about the ſtreets of London, and conceived the idea of ſending them back to their native country, for the double purpoſe of ameliorating their own condition, and, at the ſame time, introducing the ſeeds of civilization into Africa. Theſe people he collected together to a very conſiderable number, and, at his ſole expenſe, ſent them over to Africa, where they formed a colony, and built themſelves a town, which, in compliment to their benefactor, they named *Granville*. It is ſituated on the river Sierra Leone, not far from the newly-eſtabliſhed ſettlement of *Free Town*.

In

In the diſcuſſion of the important queſtion concerning the legality of preſs-warrants, Mr. Sharp diſplayed the ſame energy as he had done in the caſe of Somerſet. A freeman of London, of the name of Mellichip, had been impreſſed into the ſervice of the navy. Mr. Sharp applied to Mr. Alderman Bull, then lord mayor, for an order for his diſcharge, which that magiſtrate, ever watchful over the liberties of the people, and incorruptibly pure in the adminiſtration of public juſtice, inſtantly granted. The commanding-officer of the preſs-gang had previouſly removed Mellichip to the Nore, in order to place him beyond the limits of the city juriſdiction. Mr. Sharp then cauſed the Court of King's Bench to be immediately moved for a writ of Habeas Corpus to bring the body of Mellichip into court, which being of courſe complied with, Mr. Sharp inſiſted, that, there being no charge againſt him for a breach of the laws, but being detained under the pretended authority of an impreſs-warrant, the court, as guardians of the liberty of the ſubject, was bound to diſcharge him. Lord Mansfield felt himſelf compelled to acquieſce in the conſtitutional juſtice of this demand, and ordered Mellichip to be ſet at liberty.

It was to the active humanity and patriotiſm of Mr. Sharp, that the Society for aboliſhing the Slave-Trade owes its origin. This ſociety has ſince extended itſelf in ſeveral countries in Europe and through all the ſtates in America; and, though its exertions have not yet been attended with complete and wiſhed-for ſucceſs, it has brought about ſeveral very important regulations of this horrible traffic, and has conſiderably ameliorated the condition of the unhappy victims. Of this excellent ſociety, Mr. Sharp has been the preſident ever ſince its firſt inſtitution.

In his political principles, he is the ardent and zealous friend of liberty, and neglects no opportunity of defending its principles or aſſerting the neglected rights *of the people.* He has ever been the warm advocate for a

parliamentary

parliamentary reform, and has recommended a plan to the public founded on the earlieſt principles and practice of the Britiſh conſtitution. He deſires to reſtore the ancient tithings by which the whole country was formerly incorporated into ſocieties of ten men each, who were joint ſecurity for the legal and peaceable demeanor of each other, and who elected, annually, from amongſt themſelves, a conſervator of the peace, called the tithingman. Ten of theſe ſocieties he would unite into a larger body, denominated, agreeably to ancient practice, the Hundred, who ſhould elect annually their conſtable; and ten of theſe bodies again to form the largeſt aſſembly of the Thouſand, who ſhould annually elect, upon the original principles of the Britiſh conſtitution, their elderman or magiſtrate. All trivial cauſes and diſputes to be ſettled once a month by a jury of twelve men, in the Hundred-court, before the conſtable; and all cauſes of a ſuperior nature, and appeals from the Hundred, to be decided in the court of the Thouſand, before the elderman and a jury of their peers. The whole body of the people to form, in this manner, the national militia; each Thouſand to conſtitute a regiment, the elderman or magiſtrate to be their colonel; and each Hundred to conſtitute a company, the conſtable of each, for the time being, to be their captain. So many of the thouſands to be ſummoned once in every year, by their magiſtrate, as would have a right to chooſe a five-hundred and fifty-eighth part of the repreſentative legiſlature, and vote in their reſpective hundreds before the conſtable, without expenſe to the candidate or loſs of time to the voter.

Mr. Sharp has ſhewn that the diviſion of this kingdom into *tithings* and *hundreds* was inſtituted at firſt by the virtuous and patriotic King Alfred. He has likewiſe demonſtrated, in his treaties on this ſubject, that ſuch an inſtitution is thoroughly conſiſtent with the moſt perfect ſtate of liberty that man is capable of enjoying, and yet

competent,

competent, nevertheleſs, to anſwer all the neceſſary purpoſes of mutual defence, the due execution of juſt and equal laws, and the ſure maintenance of the public peace. Neither does this ſyſtem of government want either the preſcription of antiquity or the teſt of experience to recommend it to our notice. It reduced to order the Iſraelitiſh armies in the wilderneſs, and diffuſed comparative happineſs through this kingdom, from the days of its royal inſtitutor to the Norman conqueſt.

The epiſcopal church in America was founded upon a ſyſtem recommended by Mr. Sharp, and he had the honour of introducing their firſt biſhops for conſecration to the preſent Archbiſhop of Canterbury. America has, however, no eſtabliſhed religion. The conſtitution of that country can neither eſtabliſh nor prohibit any mode of worſhip which any individual may think proper to adopt.

In the unfortunate war which ended in the ſeparation of America from Great Britain, the virtue and patriotiſm of this gentleman ſuggeſted to the Congreſs the idea of having recourſe to him, as a means of bringing about a reconciliation between the two countries. Two commiſſioners were accordingly diſpatched to Paris, for the purpoſe of tranſmitting to Mr. Sharp, in London, propoſals for the Britiſh government.—Mr. Sharp delivered the propoſitions to Lord George Germain, who was then the American miniſter; and, the terms not being acceded to by the Engliſh miniſtry, the commiſſioners returned, and America was declared independent on the 4th day of July, in conſequence of this refuſal.

The wide ſcale on which Mr. Sharp has acted, and the various intereſts his ſchemes have embraced, certainly mark him out as no common character; and, though his writings have been ineffectual to produce a recurrence to our firſt conſtitutional principles, though his colony ſettled in Africa may not have ſucceeded, and preſs-warrants ſtill diſgrace

diſgrace the annals of our tolerative juriſprudence, yet the maxims he has inculcated, and the ſteady perſeverance he has evinced, through the courſe of a long life, in the cauſe of liberty, will not be without their effect. Good actions and ſentiments are never totally loſt.

Mr. Sharp was deſigned for the law, but never practiſed. He was afterwards in the Ordnance-Office; but, having a genteel competency, and diſapproving of the American war, he gave up his place, and took chambers in the Temple, where he has reſided many years. Free from every domeſtic incumbrance, he has there applied his mind to the purſuit of general knowledge. He is a good linguiſt, both ancient and modern, is well-read in divinity, extenſively acquainted with law, an enlightened politician, and a great amateur of muſic. Every Sunday night he devotes to the harp, of which he is extremely fond. This, however, is meant for a devotional exerciſe, ſince the Pſalms of David, ſung in Hebrew by himſelf, are the conſtant accompaniments of his inſtrument. On theſe occaſions, owing to his venerable appearance, united to his vivacious manner, he preſents to his auditors the moſt lively appearance of bardic enthuſiaſm. A perfect orthodox Chriſtian in his belief, he has too much ſenſe to fall into thoſe narrow bigoted ſentiments, which diſgrace the rigid profeſſion of many otherwiſe excellent characters; he therefore relaxes ſometimes into innocent gaiety, and is ſeen amuſing himſelf at a convivial meeting, held at a tavern in Fleet-Street, once every week, for the purpoſe of ſinging old Engliſh madrigals. His voice is good, and his judgment and execution conſiderable. This partiality for muſic, alſo, makes him a conſtant attendant at the cathedral ſervice of Saint Paul's, the organ of which place, and chants, he thinks excellent.

Mr. Sharp's literary labours have been principally directed to theology, politics, and juridical economy. In his Diſſertation on the Prophecies, he differs from

Dr.

Dr. Williams and Biſhop Newton in many important particulars. In another tract he has become the defender of the doctrines of Original Sin, the exiſtence and operations of the Devil, and the Athanaſian myſtery of the Trinity. He has alſo added his quota of endeavour to aboliſh the Gothic practice of duelling. In the treatiſe alluded to he has proved that the deciſion of private quarrels by private combat is contrary to law; and, when one of the parties falls, that the ſurvivor is guilty of wilful murder; and in this concluſion, few thinking men will differ from him.—His work entitled "Legal Means of Political Reformation," and his "View of the State of Government under the Syſtem of Frankpledge," are monuments of patriotiſm, which will ever rank him among the Hampdens and Sidneys of this country.

Mr. Sharp poſſeſſes a very extenſive library, where a theologian, a lawyer, a claſſic, a politician, an antiquary, or an Orientaliſt, might find ample amuſement, ſuited to their different taſtes. His collection of Bibles is eſteemed the beſt in the kingdom.

Mr. Sharp, though now between ſeventy and eighty, like Cato, purſues his ſtudies with all the ardour of youth. Within theſe laſt four years he has made himſelf a tolerable proficient in Arabic. But it muſt be remembered, that age to him is no burden,—that he has lived a temperate and regular life, and that Reaſon has always maintained her ſupremacy over his paſſions: his declining age, therefore, like the evening of a fine ſummer's day, is calm and clear.

To judge from appearances, Mr. Sharp bids fair to arrive to a very advanced age. His form is the medium between the thin and the athletic, his ſtature of the middle ſize, his countenance clear, his diſpoſition cheerful, his gait upright, his nerves ſteady, and his actions, though thus conſiderably advanced in years, poſſeſs all the ſprightlineſs of youth.

The

The poſthumous biographer of this excellent man will be able to do complete juſtice to his virtues. His name and actions will adorn the Britiſh Plutarch, for the imitation of the old: and his virtues will neceſſarily be emblazoned in the Britiſh Nepos,* as a model for the inſtruction of the young. He will be ranked with our Howards and our Hanways, as one of the moſt worthy of his countrymen. Here let us, however, conſider, that we have perhaps already ſaid more than will be grateful to the eye of modeſt merit; we ſhall only hope, that our deſerved praiſe, and the general eſteem of all his contemporaries, will occaſion this good man to continue his virtuous courſe, till he ſhall meet with the future and everlaſting reward which his religion has taught him to believe in and expect. O.

THE RIGHT HON. THOMAS PELHAM

IS eldeſt ſon of Lord Pelham, who ſucceeded to that title upon the death of Thomas Holles Pelham, Duke of Newcaſtle and Marquis of Clare, to whom he was the next in ſucceſſion in the male line. The Earl of Lincoln, who ſucceeded to the title of Duke of Newcaſtle, being the ſon of his ſiſter, and married alſo to his niece, the daughter of the late Right Hon. Henry Pelham, prime miniſter in the reign of George the Second, to whom, and to his heirs male, the title of Duke was limited by patent bearing date the 13th of November, 1756, as was the Barony of Pelham to the preſent Lord, by another patent of the preſent King granted the 4th of May, 1762.

Mr. Pelham was elected a repreſentative for the county of Suſſex at the general election in 1780; and, arranging

* Dr. Mevor, of Woodſtock, has lately publiſhed an excellent ſchool-book, under the title of the Britiſh Nepos, which comprizes the lives of all the moſt illuſtrious Britons, from Alfred to Howard, and which is recommended to general adoption by the obvious truth, that example is *more ſeductive and powerful than precept.*

himſelf on the Treaſury ſide of the Houſe, he continued to vote on that ſide during the remainder of Lord North's adminiſtration till March, 1782. On the appointment of the new adminiſtration, the name of Mr. Pelham was the only perſon from his ſide of the Houſe which diſplayed himſelf in the new arrangements. He obtained the office of ſurveyor-general of the Ordnance, and continued to hold it under the ſucceeding adminiſtration of Lord Shelburne.

This party being driven from power by the coalition in 1783, Mr. Pelham attached himſelf to Lord North and Mr. Fox, and was appointed ſecretary of Ireland under the lord-lieutenancy of the late Earl of Northington. But, the coalition being in their turn compelled to retire from office at the beginning of the year 1784, Mr. Pelham was diſmiſſed, and he in conſequence became a deciſive and active opponent of all the meaſures of the preſent adminiſtration. He continued to purſue this line of political conduct till the defection of the Duke of Portland and his connections had reduced the numbers of the Oppoſition in the two Houſes of Parliament ſo conſiderably, as to give no farther alarm to the Miniſter, nor to afford any hope of future preferment or emolument to thoſe who adhered to the principles of the Oppoſition. In this ſituation Mr. Pelham once more changed his party, and was converted to the intereſt of the preſent adminiſtration. He was, thereupon, reſtored to his former poſt of Iriſh ſecretary, and he continued to hold that office during the government of Earl Camden.

We cannot conſider theſe inſtances of tergiverſation as reflecting great luſtre on an eminent political character; on the contrary, we lament that the faſhion of the times at all authorizes ſuch dereliction from public principle, and we are forced to admit, with Sir William Draper in his reply to Junius, that the "principles of the moſt exalted characters hang too looſely about them."

Mr.

Mr. Pelham is amiable in private life, his manners and addreſs are conciliating, and, as a magiſtrate, he is impartial and highly reſpectable. He has contributed greatly to the introduction of the improved ſyſtem of agriculture into the county of Suſſex, and is much eſteemed in his neighbourhood and in the militia of that county, of which he is lieutenant-colonel, for his pleaſing and friendly qualities. His perſonal influence procures the return of four members to parliament; one for the town of Lewes, two for the borough of Seaford, and himſelf for the county of Suſſex.

O.

THE DUKE OF GRAFTON.

THIS diſtinguiſhed veteran, in the field of politics, ſtill attracts the attention of his contemporaries, by the great authority of his name, by his late virtuous receſſion from public buſineſs, and by his patronage of learning and learned men. In the progreſs of an active life, he has ably filled the firſt offices in the ſtate; has conſcientiouſly done his duty, whenever the meaſures of the reſpective adminiſtrations differed from his own notions of rectitude; and, at the preſent period, when he finds that his warnings and his advice are of no ſervice to his country, he wholly retires from public view, contented with the character he has ſo well earned of an enlightened ſtateſman and genuine patriot.

His Grace was born on the 28th of September, 1736, and ſucceeded to the title of his grandfather before he became of age, in the year 1757. The late King appointed him lord-lieutenant of the county of Suſſex; and, as an admirer of the great William Pitt, he became a patriot of very promiſing expectations. He in fact ſo cloſely united himſelf with the party of that great man, that, under the ſubſequent adminiſtration of Lord Bute, he was deprived of his lord-lieutenancy.

The outſet of his political life was uniformly diſtinguiſhed by an oppoſition to the court-faction, and by his zeal for the liberties, glory, and conſtitution of his country. He was of the number of thoſe who warmly oppoſed, with a ſort of preſcience of its conſequences, the American Stamp-Act, which was paſſed in 1762; and he particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his cenſures of the terms of the peace, and of all the meaſures of the Bute and Grenville adminiſtrations.

Such conduct ſtrongly recommended the Duke to the confidence of the popular party; and, in the Rockingham adminiſtration, which ſucceeded that of the Grenville, he obtained the appointment of ſecretary of ſtate to the foreign department. To the honour of his Grace and his colleagues, a wiſer and more liberal ſyſtem was purſued, the obnoxious Stamp-Act was repealed, and a ſpirit of equity and moderation characterized every meaſure of the new adminiſtration.

A diviſion of ſentiments having been effected among the leading men, by the intrigues of that ſecret faction, whoſe influence has done ſo much miſchief, his Grace reſigned on the 22d of May, 1766, becauſe he would not act unleſs Lord Chatham were one of the miniſtry. A new adminiſtration was in conſequence formed in the month of Auguſt, conſiſting wholly of the friends of Lord Chatham, and the Duke of Grafton had the honour to be placed at the head of the Treaſury. This patriotic party was ſpeedily undermined, as the preceding had been, and, in little more than a year, a diviſion and mutual jealouſy having been effected, the Lords Chatham, Shelburne, and Northington, reſigned.

This was the moſt critical and intereſting epoch of the life of the Duke of Grafton.

He and Earl Camden retained their places after their patriotic friends had reſigned, and thus expoſed themſelves

to

to the ſuſpicion of the patriots, and to the invectives of the immortal pen of Junius.

This party-writer, although ſo eloquent, and whoſe political ſtyle will long remain a model, will not, however, be received as an authority by any ſober hiſtorian. No perſon at this day eſtimates the character of the Duke of Grafton from the twelve Philippics, addreſſed to him by Junius. To a certain degree, his Grace undoubtedly committed himſelf. He continued to act with men whoſe principles he has ever been ſuppoſed to diſavow, and, by the countenance of his name, gave a colour to meaſures which might not without that ſanction have been carried into execution. It is a fact, which cannot be wholly palliated, that his Grace held a reſponſible ſituation in a Tory miniſtry, during the foreboding years, from 1767 to 1775.

There is, however, ſtrong reaſon to believe, that his Grace was for a long time in a minority in the cabinet. His whole life belies the ſuppoſition, that he approved of the principle of taxing the colonies, and of the other unconſtitutional doctrines which were acted upon during this period. However, on the 10th of November, 1775, he reſigned his office of Lord Privy-Seal; and this reſignation, united to his ſubſequent oppoſition to the violent meaſures of adminiſtration, furniſhed demonſtrative proof in favour of his political conſiſtency. It is underſtood, that his Grace reſigned as ſoon as he diſcovered the mad project in the cabinet, of conquering America, and of introducing a ſyſtem of taxation by force of arms.

His Grace was afterwards found in the patriotic liſts of Oppoſition, during the whole of the American war. And when, in 1782, the cloſe union of the Rockingham and Shelburne parties effected the overthrow of Lord North, his Grace was reſtored to his former office of Lord Privy-Seal. This ſituation he held till April, 1783, when he and his friends were compelled to give way to the preponderating influence of the infamous coalition.

Since

Since that period, his Grace has held no oſtenſible ſituation under the government, but he has never omitted, in his ſeat in parliament, to offer his opinions on every important occaſion. He has uniformly diſapproved of the principle of the preſent war, and is of the number of thoſe independent perſons, who conſider it as pregnant with miſchief to the conſtitution and proſperity of the Britiſh empire. His laſt eloquent and moſt pathetic ſpeech drew tears from the writer of this article. It was an awful moment to hear ſuch illuſtrious and independent patriots as the Dukes of Grafton and Bedford, the Marquis of Lanſdown, and the Earls of Moira, Suffolk, and Guilford, declare ſucceſſively their deſign to ſecede from their ſenatorial duties, which had become ſo uſeleſs and miſchievous. The Duke of Grafton concluded one of the moſt intereſting ſpeeches ever heard in a public aſſembly, with the following declaration, "*I ſhall retire, my Lords, to my country-ſeat, to inſtruct my children; and await, in awful ſilence, the eventful period which I ſee approaching.*"

The reader has thus rapidly followed the political career of the Duke of Grafton. He will now find it no leſs intereſting to view him in his domeſtic life, as a private and opulent nobleman.

His Grace has been twice married. From his firſt dutcheſs, who was the daughter of Lord Ravenſworth, he was divorced in March, 1769. He was married to his preſent dutcheſs in the May of the ſame year. By his two marriages he has had ſeventeen children, four by the firſt, and thirteen by the laſt; fifteen of whom, ſeven ſons and eight amiable daughters, are ſtill living.* With ſuch an intereſting family, who, that has children, will doubt, that the Duke of Grafton is a ſincere patriot, and

* His eldeſt ſon, the Earl of Euſton, was born in the year 1760, and has repreſented the Univerſity of Cambridge in four ſucceſſive parliaments; he is, moreover, lord-lieutenant of the county of Suffolk, colonel of one of its regiments of militia, and ranger of St. James's and Hyde Parks.

and real friend to the intereſts of his country. What better pledge of integrity can the public expect, than that its firſt ſervants ſhould poſſeſs minds fraught with intelligence, and hearts which beat with the ſenſibility of parents?†

His Grace has been Chancellor of the Univerſity of Cambridge upwards of thirty years, and, by his influence and patronage, is conceived to have been the means of introducing the liberal and active ſpirit, which has peculiarly diſtinguiſhed that Univerſity. Thoſe friends of civil and religious liberty, who are its members, have always expreſſed their high ſenſe of his Grace's liberal ſentiments, while his conduct has been ſo moderate, as on no occaſion to give offence, even to the partizans of paſſive obedience. In teſtimony of the flattering opinion entertained of his Grace's principles, we ſhall quote the elegant *Ode to Liberty*, written by that amiable poet, Mr. GEORGE DYER, late of Emanuel:

"May FITZROY, too, the gen'rous tranſport ſhare;
And rais'd by love of thee, and love of truth,
View Liberty's long luſtre mild and clear,
Till its full orb illume Britannia's youth,
And I, the meaneſt of the tuneful throng,
On Cam's fair banks, will chant to thee the grateful ſong."

His generous patronage of Mr. GRAY ought not to be forgotten. Mr. G. was known as an excellent poet and man of letters, but was wholly unprovided for, when, without any ſolicitation, the Duke, as chancellor, advanced him to the Profeſſorſhip of Modern Hiſtory, worth upwards of 300l. per annum. Mr. G. deeply impreſſed with a ſenſe of his obligation, volunteered the following

† The man who "*hath not muſic in his ſoul*," that is to ſay, whoſe ſoul is not alive to the ſympathies of filial and paternal love, and to the tender affections of private life, ought ſeldom to be truſted by a ſovereign or his people.

following lines into the Ode performed on the occaſion of the inſtallation of the Duke as chancellor, on the 1ſt of July, 1769.

But hark! the portals ſound, and pacing forth
With ſolemn ſteps and ſlow,
High potentates, and dames of royal birth,
And mitred fathers, in long order go:
Great Edward, with the lilies on his brow
From haughty Gallia torn,
And ſad Chatillon, on her bridal morn
That wept her bleeding love, and princely Clare,
And Anjou's heroine, and the paler Roſe,
The rival of her crown, and of her woes,
And either Henry there,
The murder'd Saint, and the majeſtic Lord,
That broke the bonds of Rome:
(Their tears, their little triumphs o'er,
Their human paſſions now no more,
Save Charity, that glows beyond the tomb!)
All that on Granta's fruitful plain
Rich ſtreams of regal bounty pour'd,
And bade theſe awful fanes and turrets riſe,
To hail their FITZROY's feſtal morning come;
And thus they ſpeak in ſoft accord
The liquid language of the ſkies.

"What is Grandeur, what is Pow'r?
Heavier toil, ſuperior pain,
What the bright reward we gain?
The grateful mem'ry of the good.
Sweet is the breath of vernal ſhow'r,
The bee's collected treaſures ſweet,
Sweet muſic's melting fall, but ſweeter yet
The ſtill ſmall voice of Gratitude."

Foremoſt and leaning from her golden cloud
The venerable Marg'ret ſee!
"Welcome, my noble Son, (ſhe cries aloud,)
To this, thy kindred train, and me:
Pleas'd in thy lineaments we trace
A Tudor's* fire, a Beaufort's grace,

Thy

* *The Countess* was a Beaufort, and married to a Tudor; hence the *application of this* line to the DUKE of GRAFTON, who claims deſcent *from both theſe* families.

Thy lib'ral heart, thy judging eye,
The flower unheeded ſhall deſcry,
And bid it round heav'n's altars ſhed
The fragrance of its bluſhing head:
Shall raiſe from earth the latent gem
To glitter on the diadem.

Lo! Granta waits to lead her blooming band,
Not obvious, not obſtruſive, ſhe
No vulgar praiſe, no venal incenſe flings:
Nor dares with courtly tongue refin'd
Profane thy inborn royalty of mind;
She reveres herſelf and thee.
With modeſt pride to grace thy youthful brow
The laureate wreath, that Cecil wore, ſhe brings,
And to thy juſt, thy gentle hand
Submits the feces of her ſway,
While Spirits bleſt above and Men below
Join with glad voice the loud ſymphonious lay."

Mr. Gray will not be ſuſpected of a diſpoſition to flatter, by thoſe who knew the independence of his mind.

The Duke for many years paſt has been occupied in collecting books, with more aſſiduity than almoſt any nobleman of his time. His library is copious, ſplendid, and well choſen; and is particularly valuable for many incomparable copies of the ſcarceſt and moſt eſteemed claſſic authors in their earlieſt editions, which the liberality of their owner renders acceſſible to all ſtudents who wiſh to conſult and uſe them, in the true ſpirit of one, who loves, and promotes, and patronizes, literature.* We will venture to aſſert, without fear of contradiction, or any imputation of exaggeration and ſervility, that none of

* Among numerous inſtances, a recent one may be inſtanced, relative to the new edition of GRIESBACH's New Teſtament.—His Grace offered to print a new edition in England, at his own expenſe; but, as Grieſbach had been employed for many years in the improvement of his work, it was judged more expedient, that it ſhould be re-printed on the continent, under the author's own inſpection, upon paper ſent from England by the Duke. This was done, and his Grace has ſince diſtributed a great number of copies. Others he has put on ſale at a low charge, for the general convenience of the public.

of the Duke's contemporaries, under ſimilar circumſtances of ſituation, with a very numerous and expenſive family, can boaſt ſuch inſtances of ſpontaneous generoſity and diſintereſted ſervice to learned men, whether by relieving their embarraſſments, or encouraging their works.

The Duke is the reputed author of a well-written and judicious pamphlet, publiſhed about ten years ago, on the ſubject of the Church-Liturgy and Subſcriptions, which was favourably received by the public, and has paſſed through ſeveral editions.*

In religion, he is underſtood to be friendly to Socinian or Unitarian doctrines, and he frequently attends the Unitarian chapel, in Eſſex-Street, of which Dr. DISNEY, ſince the reſignation of Mr. LINDSEY, is become the officiating paſtor. His Grace is ſaid to have printed, for private circulation, a very intereſting tract, containing his own private ſentiments in matters of religion.

In perſon, the Duke of Grafton is of the middle ſize, but ſlender, with a countenance ſhrewd and intelligent, and thought to reſemble that of his royal progenitors. His manners are highly agreeable and faſcinating; his dreſs is remarkable for great plainneſs and neatneſs. As a parliamentary orator, he is very animated, and ſpeaks with great dignity and intereſt; his ſtyle is ſtrong and claſſical, and he always engages the reſpectful attention of his auditors. He has been admitted, even by his enemies, to be a nobleman of great talents and learning. Lord Chatham evinced his high opinion of him, by placing him at the head of his own adminiſtration; and Mr. Wilkes, and even Junius, have acknowledged, that he poſſeſſes the moſt elevated powers of mind.

His Grace is ranger of Whittlebury-Foreſt, his Majeſty's game-keeper at Newmarket, receiver-general of the profits of the ſeals in the King's Bench and Common Pleas, and of the prizage on wines, chancellor of the Univerſity

* *Entitled,* "Hints ſubmitted to the Serious Attention of the Clergy *Nobility, and Gentry,* newly aſſociated."

Univerſity of Cambridge, high-ſteward of Dartmouth, recorder of Thetford and Coventry, a governor of the Charter-houſe, and a knight of the garter. May he long live the bleſſing of his family, and the ornament and hope of his country! A. D.

MR. SECRETARY COOKE.

NOTWITHSTANDING the vehement oppoſition made by the people of Ireland to a cloſer union with Great Britain, yet that country almoſt ever has been, and it is likely ever will be, governed, internally, by the counſels and advice of Engliſhmen.

Among thoſe who have for ſome years paſt guided the affairs of Ireland, Mr. Cooke is not the leaſt conſpicuous. He is the ſon of the late Dr. Cooke, of King's College, Cambridge, who died two years ſince at Bath, a man diſtinguiſhed for his high literary attainments.

Mr. Cooke, at an early age, was placed upon the King's foundation at Eton-School, where he received a claſſical education, and, when qualified, was ſent to King's College, Cambridge, of which college his father was then provoſt.

In the year 1777, the late Earl of Buckinghamſhire was appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland, and the preſent Sir Richard Heron, who was then an eminent conveyancer, was appointed chief ſecretary to that nobleman's adminiſtration.

Sir Richard was not long in this ſituation, before he found that the duties of his office made it neceſſary for him to call in the aſſiſtance of ſome confidential perſon, who, to uſe his own phraſe at the time, would be, "a "faithful drudge," in the character of a confidential clerk. Accordingly, Sir Richard applied to ſome of his friends, then at Dublin-Caſtle, to recommend him ſome

young

young man of this deſcription, who might be found at either of the Engliſh univerſities, poſſeſſing ſufficient talents, and whoſe circumſtances in life would render ſuch a ſituation an object worthy his attention and acceptance.

By theſe friends, Mr. Cooke was recommended to Sir Richard. Upon being applied to, he gladly embraced the ſituation, and was appointed chief clerk, or, to uſe the more palatable expreſſion, *private ſecretary* to the chief ſecretary, at a ſalary of 200*l.* per annum.

Mr. Cooke continued for ſome time in this ſituation, in addition to which, he farther made himſelf uſeful to government, by ſupporting adminiſtration in many of their periodical publications, and by performing the duties of a certain non-deſcript office, which, though it wants a name, is nevertheleſs well known in the ſyſtem of Iriſh adminiſtration:—its buſineſs was to attend the ſittings of the Houſe of Commons, and be in readineſs, at the direction of the Miniſter of the day, to communicate between him and his friends, to acquaint them, in caſes where their ſervices might be wanted, of the urgency that called them, and, in a word, to aſſiſt miniſterially in executing one part of the office of the chief ſecretary. It was at a time, when the minority of the Iriſh Houſe of Commons was much more numerous and reſpectable than it has been of later years, and, of courſe, much more to be dreaded by the Miniſter, that Mr. Cooke was thus employed, to hang upon their rear, and watch their motions. The duty, in many caſes, was arduous and important: Mr. C. diſcharged it to the full ſatisfaction of his employers, and was rewarded, firſt, by a place of 200*l.* per annum in the Dublin Cuſtom-Houſe, and, after a due probation, by the lucrative office of chief clerk to the Houſe of Commons. This office was conferred on Mr. C. during the adminiſtration of the Duke of Rutland.

The

The unpopularity which attached to his Grace, in the early part of his adminiſtration, occaſioned by the introduction of the *Iriſh Propoſitions*; the *doctrine of attachments* againſt the High Sheriffs of cities and counties, for calling aggregate meetings of the freemen and freeholders, &c. &c. produced in the daily and other periodical prints, at that time, animadverſions, and (ſome indeed ſcandalous) libels, not only againſt the *public meaſures*, but the *private conduct*, of that nobleman. Theſe circumſtances afforded Mr. Cooke a favourable opportunity, of rendering himſelf not only extremely uſeful, but agreeable, to government, by his vindications of the adminiſtration, through the medium of pamphlets and newſpapers; and for theſe as well as his other ſervices, it was, that Mr. Cooke was appointed clerk of the Iriſh Houſe of Commons; an office, the duty of which requires little more than attendance and regularity, and is rewarded by ſalary and emoluments, which amount, it is ſaid, to 1400*l.* or 1500*l.* per annum. This office was ſettled on him for life, *i. e.* he had the power of nomination, when he ſhould himſelf be inclined to retire.

Mr. Cooke continued in this ſituation until the important period of the Regency, which occurred during the adminiſtration of the preſent Marquis of Buckingham, in 1789, when Mr. Charles Francis Sheridan, (who then held the employment of ſecretary for the military department in Ireland, voting in parliament for declaring the Prince of Wales unreſtricted Regent of Ireland, was diſmiſſed from office, and Mr. Cooke appointed to ſucceed him: he was, at the ſame time, nominated to a ſeat in the Houſe of Commons (of which he was then clerk) for one of the government boroughs.

Already he had given ſeveral proofs of his talents, both in a political and a literary way; and it was ſuppoſed, that thoſe talents could be turned to better uſe, in the capacity of a ſenator, than in the confined character of a

noter of minutes. It was thought, that a man, poſſeſſing conſiderable learning, much ſtrong ſenſe, and political information, would have been a reſpectable, if not a brilliant, parliamentary partizan. In this, at leaſt, however, he diſappointed his patrons; for, on his firſt eſſay in debate, it was found, that he wanted voice, and temper, and management, for a public ſpeaker. His voice was ſo low and guttural as to be ſcarcely audible, his temper hot and iraſcible, and his management of himſelf and his argument ſo incautious as to leave both open to ridicule and retort. There were other reaſons which co-operated to prevent Mr. Cooke from being a frequent or a formidable ſupporter of his party. The ſituations he had ſucceſſively filled, from his commencement in public life, were known: in ſome of them, he had been ſo recently employed, that, whenever he ſpoke, the Houſe viewed him rather in his former characters, than in that of a brother-member;—hence his arguments were frequently anſwered by the ridicule, the contempt, or invective, of Oppoſition, againſt the agents of corruption, the whippers-in of a party, or the government of clerks. It was neither for the honour of Mr. C. nor for the benefit of his friends, that he ſhould too frequently give occaſion to the malice of the Oppoſitioniſts, to expatiate upon theſe topics, even though he poſſeſſed more of the qualities of a parliamentary ſpeaker than he appeared to do; he, therefore, prudently declined being prominent in debate, and, for the future, limited his ſenatorial exertions to the givings of a ſilent vote, or to the ſhort explanation of a public account or a parliamentary eſtimate. But, if Mr. Cooke be not an eloquent ſpeaker, he is yet thought to be a very uſeful member of parliament; for, though he cannot convince or lead the Houſe by his reaſoning or by his eloquence in a public harangue, he is, nevertheleſs, known to be moſt perſuaſive in private colloquy with individual members, nor is there, perhaps, among the friends of the Miniſter

Miniſter in the Iriſh Houſe of Commons, any man better ſkilled in perſuading a majority to keep together, in eſtimating the probable event of a debate, or in guarding againſt the wicked efficacy of patriotic declamation.

Mr. Cooke continued ſecretary, for the military department in Ireland, from the year 1789 until the adminiſtration of Earl Fitzwilliam, in 1795, who diſplaced him, and appointed Colonel John Doyle his ſucceſſor. Lord Fitzwilliam, alſo, diſmiſſed Sackville Hamilton, Eſq. from the office of ſecretary for the civil department, and appointed Lodge Morres, Eſq. his ſucceſſor.

Lord Camden having ſucceeded Lord Fitzwilliam in the government of Ireland, he immediately diſmiſſed both Colonel Doyle and Mr. Morres, and appointed Mr. Cooke to the office of ſecretary to the civil department, in the room of Mr. Morres, which ſituation he (Mr. Cooke) holds at this moment.

Previouſly to the late unhappy rebellion, Mr. Cooke was particularly diſtinguiſhed by his zeal and his activity, in developing the conſpiracy and in procuring the arreſt of the principal conſpirators; nor is he leſs zealous and active at preſent in counteracting the machinations of ſedition; for, Mr. C. ſeems to believe, that ſedition is yet hatching revolutionary projects. But, it is not theſe laudable exertions of his, in reſtoring or preſerving the peace of the country, that have of late made him ſo conſpicuous; it was his publication of his arguments, for and againſt an union, which was deſigned as the precurſor of that meaſure, and expected, no doubt, to ſmooth the way for it.—This work neither anſwered the hopes which were formed of it, nor correſponded with the literary reputation of its author. Inſtead of preparing the public mind for the favourable reception of that meaſure, it contained a collection of topics ſo injudicious, as to raiſe a hoſt of enemies againſt its favourite object; it diſguſted the loyal, by attempting to prove, that the good

government

government and the independence of the country were incompatible, and it gave ſtrength to the diſaffected, by declaring, on authority almoſt official, that the evils they complained of, and which they had taken up arms under pretence of redreſſing, exiſted even more miſchievouſly than they had ſtated. In a literary point of view, it was equally objectionable; for, it boaſted neither ingenuity of argument nor beauty of compoſition. W. Y.

MAJOR JOHN CARTWRIGHT.

THE family of Major Cartwright is of great antiquity in the county of Nottingham. By the female line, through a deſcent of five generations, he is ſprung from the Pierrepoints:* one of his anceſtors repreſented the borough of Retford, in the reign of Charles I.† and a younger branch of his houſe has repreſented the county of Northampton in ſeveral parliaments. There are, perhaps, ſome to whom theſe circumſtances may moſt recommend him, but his proper merit is in himſelf. He is mild in his manners; of a temper warm, but governed; ardent and ſteady in his affections; elevated in his ſentiments; daring and indefatigable; poſſeſſed of all that is eſſential in politeneſs, yet negligent of frivolous forms and faſhions, with a ſtrong ſenſe of moral and religious obligation, as appears in all his writings.

An

* Which gave him relationſhip by blood to the late Duke of Kingſton and the preſent Duke of Portland.

† An anceſtor of the Major's, as may be ſeen in Clarendon, was alſo comptroller of the navy, and commanded, at one time, a ſquadron of the King's ſhips; and Sir Hugh Cartwright, another of them, had been ſo ſtrenuous a ſupporter of the royal cauſe, that he was obliged, on the elevation of Cromwell, to retire to Antwerp.

The Major himſelf is a younger brother of the gentleman who ſpent ſo many years in Labrador, and publiſhed a Journal, in three quarto volumes, of the events which there happened to him. He is alſo brother to the Rev. Edmund Cartwright, author of Armine and Elvira, and other poems; and who has eſtabliſhed a high reputation for diſcoveries in mechanics, which are of the greateſt utility in manufactures.

An ardour in the purſuit of virtuous fame was the firſt and will, perhaps, be the laſt paſſion of his ſoul. This has impelled him ever to do more than his duty, but rendered him careleſs of thoſe rewards which he deſerved. Though he had ſerved with the late Duke of York, Lord Howe, Sir Hugh Palliſer and Admiral Byron, every one of whom have borne teſtimony to his merit, the rank of lieutenant terminated his career of naval promotion. But his career of generous ambition and virtuous action began with his earlieſt youth, and will end only with his life.

While but a boy, he left his father's houſe to engage in the ſervice of the King of Pruſſia, whoſe heroic deeds had ſtimulated his youthful ambition. Being overtaken by a friend, he was prevailed upon to return, and divert his mind towards the military ſervice of his own country; and he ſoon after entered into the navy, under Lord Howe.* While with his Lordſhip and the Duke of York, the daringneſs of his ſpirit was ſhewn, by his leaping

* He embarked in 1758, at the age of eighteen, and became a lieutenant in 1762. He was preſent, in 1758, at the capture of Cherbourg and the deſtruction of its naval baſon; and, in 1759, was in the glorious action on the French coaſt, when Sir Edward Hawke defeated Conflans. Lord Howe's ſhip, the Magnanime, had a full ſhare in that engagement, and concluded her part of it by a ſharp conteſt with the French Hero, of equal force; both ſhips carrying 74 guns. The Hero ſtruck to her opponent.

When Lord Howe, a few days after that action, was ſelected by the admiral to command a meditated attack on that part of the French fleet which eſcaped into the river Villaine, only one lieutenant and two midſhipmen were taken by his Lordſhip out of his own ſhip, to attend him on that ſervice. Mr. Cartwright was one of the latter; and, it will be ſeen, that he did not afterwards loſe his Lordſhip's good opinion.

It was about this time, that our young ſeaman reformed the exerciſe of the great guns on ſhip-board; which, until curtailed by him, was as long and tireſome as the manual exerciſe of a ſoldier uſed to be. Slight as this circumſtance appears, it may perhaps be conſidered as an indication of a mind early turned to *the reforming of bad ſyſtems.*

His improved and conciſe mode was communicated to his friend Falconer, who gives it as an article in his Marine Dictionary. Here, it may not be improper to add, that Lord Howe, ever attentive to the diſcipline of his ſhip, had all the ſeamen inſtructed in the uſe of ſmall arms, and committed the charge of this inſtruction to Mr. Cartwright and a Mr. Cannon, whoſe ſole employment it was, until the end in view was accompliſhed.

from a 74-gun ſhip into the ſea, as the ſhip was under ſail, in order to ſave the life of a young gentleman who had fallen overboard. And he afterwards, while a midſhipman, made a propoſal to Lord Howe, to undertake the burning of ſome French men of war, which his Lordſhip was then blocking up in a harbour;* but Lord Howe thought the attempt too hazardous.

Under Sir Hugh Palliſer and Admiral Byron, at Newfoundland, he diſtinguiſhed himſelf for five years ſucceſſively, by his able and upright adminiſtration of juſtice, in the extenſive diſtricts committed to his juriſdiction; by ſupplying the defects of the laws, in caſes of difficulty, with judgment, addreſs, and firmneſs; and in being the propoſer of ſeveral reformations. He will alſo be remembered in that iſland, ſo long as it ſhall remain in Engliſh hands, as the diſcoverer of the country to the very centre of the iſland, to which he penetrated through unexplored woods and the ſettlements of hoſtile ſavages, with the view, amongſt other generous purpoſes, of rendering them friends, and affording them the means of becoming Chriſtians.†

In 1771, he was obliged to quit his ſhip for the recovery of his health, which had greatly ſuffered, and, for two or three years, had been conſtantly declining. But ſickneſs could not repreſs the activity of a mind devoted to the public, nor could the allurements of ſociety wean him from this ſtrong attachment. He very ſoon wrote a free and manly pamphlet, on the Rights and Intereſts of the Adventurers in the Newfoundland Fiſhery, againſt the Neglects of the Legiſlature, and the Oppreſſions of Governors,

* The river Charente, below Rochfort.

† On this occaſion, he penetrated to, and diſcovered, a lake, which proved to be the capacious ſource of the river Exploits, emptying itſelf into a bay of the ſame name, on the eaſt coaſt, in latitude 49° 30′. This lake, but without any name, was delineated on a chart of the iſland, publiſhed by Jeffries, geographer to the King, in 1775.

Governors,* which he preſented to the ſecretary of ſtate. He drew up, alſo, a plan for a perpetual ſupply of Engliſh oak to the navy, for cultivating the royal foreſts, and other great advantages to the nation, which met with the higheſt approbation; and which he laid before the miniſters, but without receiving even an anſwer to his many applications upon the ſubject. They ſtole, indeed, a part of it, which anſwered their own purpoſes, but by no means ſecured thoſe benefits to the public, which were the author's object; and, with regard to the whole of the plan, the beſt idea that can be conveyed of it will be in the words of a friend † of the Miniſter, to whom it was ſhewn, who candidly remarked, "We are not honeſt enough for ſuch plans as theſe."

In 1774, he could no longer ſuppreſs his feelings for the ſufferings of America, and the fatal conſequence to his own country, which he foreſaw from the arbitrary principles and raſh conduct of the miniſters; and he then wrote his firſt Treatiſe on Politics, a treatiſe, that was then neglected, as full of falſe prognoſtics and chimerical propoſals. But time has ſhewn, that it was prophetic, and containing inſtructions of the ſoundeſt policy. This was followed, from time to time, by other publications, in all of which he ſhews a true knowledge of our conſtitution, an ardent love of liberty, and a contempt of private intereſt and perſonal danger, when in competition with the public good.

He was early diſtinguiſhed, and decided his fitneſs for a ſeat in parliament, by his "Vindication of the Legiſlative Rights of the Commonalty," in which he traces, with preciſion, the declenſion of our parliament, from its ancient purity and excellence, to its preſent corrupt ſtate,

 refutes

* This little work was never printed, having been intended only as advice to, and expoſtulation with, the Miniſter, who preſided over the department which had the ſuperintendance of the fiſhery.

† Doctor Douglas, now biſhop of Saliſbury. See Letter to the Duke of Newcaſtle. Appendix.

refutes all the arguments in favour of the rotten ſyſtem, and clearly points out the means of reformation. Beſides addreſſing this work to the public, and preſenting it to the King, he uſed every other effort, in the power of a private perſon, towards ſetting on foot the propoſed reformation, from a full conviction that nothing leſs could ſave his country.

The town of Nottingham ſhewed their gratitude to the author of ſo valuable a gift, and had the honour of being the firſt who wiſhed to ſend him as their repreſentative to parliament.

Prior to Mr. C.'s firſt voyage to Newfoundland, he commanded a cutter ſtationed on the coaſt of Dorſetſhire, when, going into Plymouth for proviſions and ſome trifling articles of refitment, he had an opportunity of witneſſing a mode of making out public accounts, which may well cauſe ſuch accounts to be viewed with diſtruſt, until a radical reform ſhall have obtained, for the nation, ſtewards who will ſift them to the bottom, and make examples of thoſe who abuſe the truſts repoſed in them. An account of the application of the moneys remitted to the dock-yard was drawn up to be laid before *the Houſe of Commons*, in which every ſhip, and other object of expenſe, was ſet forth in the firſt column, and other columns were appropriated to building, re-building, repairs, refitment, &c. &c. and then came a column, ſhewing the total expenſe. Mr. C. from a natural curioſity reſpecting his own veſſel, the *Sherbourn*, was deſirous of ſeeing what had been the expenſe incurred on her; but, as he knew it could not exceed 30*l.* or 35*l.* he rather expected it would have been included in the general article of *ſmall craft*, than to have been particularly ſpecified in a national account, which he did not ſuppoſe would deſcend to ſuch minutiæ.

In the proper column, however, he found the *Sherbourn*, when, looking forward to the column of *totals*, he ſaw, to his aſtoniſhment, a charge of 1200*l.* He took the earlieſt opportunity

nunity of perſonally communicating the fact to a Lord of the Admiralty, who had alſo a ſeat in the Houſe of Commons; but he never heard that the mode of ſtating ſuch accounts was corrected.

On his return from Newfoundland, at the cloſe of the year 1770, he was invited by his original commander, Lord Howe, then appointed to commence a new war with Spain, relative to Falkland's Iſlands, to become one of his lieutenants in the Queen, a ſhip of 90 guns, which invitation was gladly accepted.

The diſpute with Spain, however, being adjuſted, the admiral's flag being ſtruck, and the Queen made a *guard-ſhip* at Spithead, the contraſt between the droniſh ſervice which enſued, and the activity in which our lieutenant had moved for the thirteen years he had then been in the navy, was ſuch as to be very ill reliſhed by a mind like his; wherefore, he took an early opportunity of retiring to recruit his health; and that circumſtance ſeems to have decided the future complexion of his life.

In this retirement from naval activity, in executing abroad the will of the ſtate, he had leiſure for contemplating the principles and policy by which the ſtate itſelf regulated its conduct. The ſeeds of American ſeparation were now ſown; the *Stamp-Act* had been long paſſed and repealed; but the *Declaratory Act* having laid a new foundation for oppreſſion, the folly and injuſtice of the government ſoon gave freſh cauſe of diſcontent to the colonies. Attending to the progreſs of the diſpute, Mr. Cartwright formed his opinions; and, when matters ripened into a dangerous criſis, feeling with warmth the intereſts of truth and juſtice, and anxious for the honour and proſperity of his country, he became in regular form an author.

His firſt eſſays were a ſeries of letters in the ſpring of 1774, he publiſhed in a newſpaper: in January, 1775, he made additions, and then publiſhed the whole as a pamphlet, entitled, "*American Independence, the Intereſt*

and

and Glory of Great Britain." Foreſeeing the iſſue of the tyrannical conduct of his country, unleſs timely corrected, as well as the ſound policy of guarding againſt future diſputes, he propoſed to declare America independent of *parliament*, and *then* to form with her the cloſeſt connexion, founded on their natural relationſhip and common intereſt; his Majeſty ſtill remaining king of each ſtate, the ſtates to be ſeparate, and Great Britain to be the umpire of their diſputes, the guarantee of their ſeparate independence one of another, and the guardian of the whole; receiving, at the ſame time, from each, ſuch a ſpecified monopoly of certain branches of her trade, or ſuch an annual ſum of money, as ſhould be agreed on, for naval protection of her territory and her commerce.

It is remarkable, that, in June of the ſame year, a committee of the American Congreſs drew up a paper, in which it is ſaid, "And we hereby declare, that, on a reconciliation with Britain, we ſhall not only continue to grant *aids in time of war*, as aforeſaid, but whenever ſhe ſhall think fit to aboliſh her monopoly, and give us the ſame privileges of trade as Scotland received at the union, and allow us a free commerce with all the reſt of the world; we will willingly agree (and we doubt not it will be ratified by our conſtituents) to give and pay into the Sinking-Fund *one hundred thouſand pounds ſterling per ann.* for the term of one hundred years; which, duly, faithfully, and inviolably, applied to that purpoſe, is demonſtrably more than ſufficient to extinguiſh *all her preſent national debt*, ſince it will not amount, at legal Britiſh intereſt, to more than 230,000,000*l.*

"But, if Britain does not think fit to accept this propoſition, we, in order to remove her groundleſs jealouſies, that we aim at independence, and an abolition of the Navigation-Act, (which hath, in truth, never been our intention,) and to avoid all future diſputes about the

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right of making that, and other acts, for regulating our commerce, do hereby declare ourſelves ready and willing to enter into a *covenant with Britain*, that ſhe ſhall fully poſſeſs, enjoy, and exerciſe, that right for a hundred years to come, the ſame being *bona fide* uſed for the common benefit."*

That counſels of a very different caſt from thoſe of Mr. Cartwright were adopted by his Majeſty and his miniſters, this country has had ſufficient cauſe to lament; nor is it uninſtructive to obſerve, that, at the period alluded to, no one member of the then numerous and powerful Oppoſition in parliament, could elevate his mind to the magnanimity of approving and recommending American independence; nay, they agreed with miniſters in treating ſuch notions as marks of diſaffection; and Mr. *Burke*, afterwards, made it his boaſt, that, if there were one member of the Houſe a greater champion than the reſt for the ſupremacy of parliament, it was himſelf; a boaſt as devoid of conſtitutional principle, as of that wiſdom which ought to diſtinguiſh a ſtateſman!

The plan ſuggeſted by Mr. Cartwright, which has been *already obſerved*, was, in the *political* ſenſe of the word, a UNION between Britain and America, under one and the ſame crown, but ſeparate and independent legiſlatures; and, by the laſt of his publications, it appears, he does not approve of any other kind of union with IRELAND. Preſident Laurens, on his releaſe from the Tower, having been aſked his opinion of Mr. Cartwright's propoſal, made a reply to this effect:—he obſerved, that, for the peace and happineſs of mankind, it was probably better the union did not take place, ſince it would have given the united countries a degree of ſtrength, that would have made them formidable to the whole world.

With

* Franklin's Political, Miſcellaneous, and Philoſophical Pieces, page 363.

With regard to the above-mentioned paper, drawn up in the American committee, it is well known, that it never appeared on the minutes of Congreſs, "a ſevere act, which arrived about that time, having determined them not to give the ſum propoſed in it."

In Auguſt, 1775, Mr. Cartwright received his commiſſion as Major of the Nottinghamſhire militia, then raiſed for the firſt time ſince the paſſing of the Militia-Act, in 1757.

It was in this year, 1775, that the American ſword of *reſiſtance* firſt drew Britiſh blood; and that the Major publiſhed "a Letter to Edmund Burke, Eſq. controverting the Principles of American Government, laid down in his Speech of April 19, 1774."

Early in the ſpring of the year 1776, Mr. Cartwright received a new invitation from Lord Howe, to accompany him on ſervice. To a lieutenant on half-pay, who had "a partiality for a naval life," and who felt to his Lordſhip a ſtrong attachment, from a reverence of his character as a man, an admiration of his talents and conduct as a commander, and a grateful affection to his perſon as his profeſſional preceptor and the friend of his fortunes,—ſuch an invitation could not but be moſt alluring. There was, in effect, included in it a tender of rank, of command, and probably of wealth; but the lieutenant had read, he had reaſoned, and he had written, on the American diſpute. He ſhed tears, but he preſerved his principles;* and, although Lord Howe expreſſed his full perſuaſion, that he ſhould be able, by his powers of negotiating as commiſſioner, to accommodate the ſubſiſting differences, without having recourſe to arms; the lieutenant ſeems to have formed a more ſolid judgment than the

* In conſequence of this refuſal, to draw his ſword againſt the cauſe of liberty, we find that he did really forego all thoſe ſplendid advantages, which would moſt evidently have attended his ſervices, and which were actually obtained by the officer who ſupplied his place.

the commiſſioner; and, at all events, proved he was incapable of hazarding the poſſibility of the dilemma he muſt have been in, ſhould arms be ultimately reſorted to.*

In 1777, the Major publiſhed "a Letter to the Earl of Abingdon," expoſtulating with his Lordſhip on certain conſtitutional points, on which he judged his Lordſhip to have erred. The writer of theſe memoirs is not in poſſeſſion of that letter, but the noble Earl, he recollects, ſpoke of it as the controverſy of a gentleman.

On the 2d of April, as the Major informs us,† he preſented to the King, at his levee, "Propoſals for recovering America, and ſaving Great Britain;" and he again urged upon his Majeſty, about the end of that year, an attention to his propoſal, in another paper which he then preſented. The reader will not expect to hear, that the advice of one, who had vindicated American reſiſtance, obtained him a ſeat in the Privy-Council; although it will ſcarcely admit of a doubt, that, had his advice been followed, his Majeſty would now have been king of all Engliſh America.

The writer, having been favoured with a copy of the above mentioned paper, has thought it merited a place in theſe memoirs. It is as follows:

"May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

"That a loyal ſubject be permitted to remind your Majeſty of the "Propoſals for recovering America, and ſaving Great Britain," which your Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to receive at his hands, on the 2d day of April laſt.

"Experience, ſince that period of time, hath ſpoken very forcibly in ſupport of ſuch meaſures as were therein recommended; it will continue, it muſt continue, to ſpeak the

* See Letter to the Duke of *Newcaſtle*, p. 55.

† *Legiſlative Rights of the Commonalty Vindicated*, p. 249.

the ſame language; becauſe the principles had their foundation in nature, rectitude, and lawful policy, contrary to thoſe of iniquity and ſelf-contradiction, upon which a corrupt ſyſtem of government hath been adhered to, and to thoſe alſo, of a ſtate-expediency, and an unwarrantable ſpirit of domination, upon which your ſervants, and even parliament, have betrayed your Majeſty into an unjuſt and ruinous war.

"The war hath been altogether unjuſt, becauſe the idea of the colonies having been ſubject to the authority of parliament, while, in truth, they only owed allegiance to your Majeſty, was founded in error, and was, in fact, incompatible with the Britiſh conſtitution; as hath long ſince been demonſtrated in the writings of ſeveral private men, one of which number was the writer of theſe lines, who, certainly, would not dare to approach your Majeſty with a direct denial of the juſt rights of parliament.

"He dares, however, to deny, and thinks it his duty to remonſtrate againſt, any unconſtitutional authority whatſoever, which, in exerciſing its uſurped powers, in a way that, however well intended, muſt, according to his apprehenſion, inevitably cauſe his Sovereign's reign to be calamitous and inglorious, and threatens to involve his country in a total ruin. Humbly ſubmitted by," &c.

17 *Dec.* 1777.

What different objects carry different men to courts! Although Lord North was extremely averſe in his own private judgment to the American war, he was too good a courtier to intrude diſagreeable ſentiments upon his Sovereign, and too much the humble ſervant of his maſter, to loſe his place for his opinions. Nay, he is ſaid to have carried his complaiſance ſo far, as to have been particularly ſedulous in having interviews with all officers on their return from America; and in either inviting or forbidding them to appear at court, according as their opi-

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nions were favourable or unfavourable to the hope of reducing the colonies to unconditional ſubjection.

What is it about the ſupreme executive magiſtrate of a ſtate, that produces ſuch ſycophancy in the ſtateſmen of an empire? Can it be any thing but the *degree* of his *power?* Roman emperors, we know, had their temples and their altars, and were worſhipped as very gods. Even Turkiſh ſovereigns, who can take off heads at pleaſure, have the loweſt proſtrations from their ſlaviſh miniſters; but the ſituation of a limited prince of a free people, if all were ſound, ought not to inſpire his counſellors with a ſervility that is treachery to the people.

Early in the ſpring of the ſame year, Major C. had publiſhed, "Take your Choice, &c." and, again in July, a ſecond edition, under the title of "The Legiſlative Rights of the Commonalty Vindicated; or, Take your Choice, &c.;" the work which the writer of the "*Sketch*" wiſhed were in the hands of every Engliſhman.

In 1778, the militia being then embodied, the Major was with his regiment at Hull, where it ſeems that his aſſiduities drew from the general of the diſtrict, Earl Percy, now Duke of Northumberland, an honourable mark of approbation.* It was, while forming the corps at this place, that the Major, by deſire of the colonel, drew up ſtanding orders and inſtructions, which were printed of a pocket-ſize, and diſtributed to all the commiſſioned and non-commiſſioned officers. Some extracts from this performance will give a juſt idea of this gentleman's notions of military duty. In the ſection of Inſtructions to the Officers, it is ſaid,

"At every proper and convenient opportunity, an officer ſhould give due praiſe to thoſe that keep themſelves clean, and are careful to make a ſoldier-like appearance, and to do their duty with cheerfulneſs; uſing his beſt

* *Letter to the Duke of Newcaſtle, p.* 35.

beſt endeavours to inſpire them with that pride in doing well, which makes the ſoldier's duty a pleaſure; as well as with that no leſs deſirable pride in their corps, which intereſts every ſoldier in the credit and honour of his regiment. Theſe effects are only to be brought about by an exact diſcipline, regulated by juſtice, and tempered with humanity, reſpect, and politeneſs, ſo that the gentleman and the peaſant, the colonel and the private centinel, may truly be *brother* ſoldiers. Love and reſpect, mixed with awe, are the ſentiments in the minds of the ſoldiers towards their officers, that unite their intereſts and their wiſhes; and, without this union, no regimental pride can take place, no regimental reputation be acquired. When moved to diſpleaſure, an officer is particularly to avoid all oaths, or ungentleman-like or inſulting expreſſions, to thoſe who miſbehave; but to reprimand them in ſuch terms, as ſhew he feels for the diſgrace they bring upon themſelves, and is concerned, that they oblige him to reſort to the harſh powers of his ſuperior ſtation; and ſo, in ſhort, as to excite *ſhame* and *ſorrow*, but not *anger*, in the breaſts of the offenders; by which means he will perſerve the dignity of the officer, and his ſeverities will produce their due effect; and, finally, he is both by example and authority to quicken the men's attention to every word of command, and to inculcate, above all things, the great duty of STEADINESS.

"Either upon the parade, or in the field, an officer will more effectually recall the attention and ſteadineſs of a forgetful ſoldier, by a quick and reprimanding eye, or a ſilent token of obſervation, than by vociferation or abuſe; for, the latter diſguſt and provoke more than they awe; beſides, that they are in themſelves breaches of good diſcipline, and very diſreſpectful to the commanding officer, and indeed to every officer preſent; while, on the contrary, the former is an inſtructive example, to the irregular ſoldiers, of that ſilent attention and anxious care for the preſervation of order, which ought ſtrictly to be obſerved, by every officer and ſoldier, to the laſt moment that they are upon the parade or under arms; when nothing ought to be ſeen but perfect uniformity, accompanied by immovable ſteadineſs, or quick, exact, and graceful movements; and nothing heard, but the proper ſound of thoſe movements, beſides the ſtrokes of the drum, the notes of muſic, and the voice of the commanding officer.

"Upon all duties of command, or of truſt and confidence, ſuch as detachments, guards, ſuperintendance of drills, viſiting of hoſpitals, of quarters, &c. &c. wherein officers act not immediately under the eye of a ſuperior, it ſhould be a moſt ſacred point of honour with them, not to omit the ſmalleſt title of any ſuch duties, nor to do them in a careleſs or unmilitary manner; for, though their neglects may not come to the knowledge of the commanding officer, *yet they cannot be unknown to the ſoldiers*, which is far worſe. And, even upon duties the moſt trifling, they ought always to pique themſelves upon ſetting examples to the ſoldiers of obedience, punctuality, and unremitting attention. No men upon earth will fail to make good ſoldiers under ſuch officers; and ſuch examples, far more than the

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care or labours of the training-officers, will form a regiment to order and diſcipline, and inſure its anſwering the wiſhes of our country in the day of battle.

"Theſe, no doubt, are motives ſufficiently ſtrong; but, to men of principle and of feeling, there is, perhaps, a motive ſtill more urgent with them, to let their own conduct on all occaſions be proper examples to their men: the private ſoldier *never ſits in judgment* upon his officer, but the officer frequently judges, and condemns and puniſhes, the ſoldier; and the courts-martial in which he officiates are, in a free country, judicatures of a very harſh nature. How can a bacchanalian officer paſs ſentence upon a drunken ſoldier? How can the inattentive puniſh the negligent? or the diſorderly conſign to the halberts the diſobedient? without being guilty of the groſſeſt inſolence, "inſolence of office," without filling the minds of the ſufferers with all the indignation and hatred which tyranny ever inſpires, and without ſubverting the beſt part of the foundations of diſcipline. To govern, through the medium of fear alone, is mean and hateful; as far as it may be neceſſary, it is always to be lamented; and too much pains cannot be uſed to ſubſtitute, in its room, the nobler principle of *emulation*."

The introduction to what reſpects the private ſoldiers runs thus:

"A balloted militia-ſoldier, in a free nation, is one who, by a wiſe and equitable law, is under an obligation to act as a military repreſentative of his pariſh, and to bear arms for defence of his country. By ſerving faithfully in that capacity for three years, he may then remain peaceably at home the reſt of his life, under the protection of thoſe whoſe lot it ſhall then be to appear in the ſame honourable character.

"A militia-ſubſtitute is he, who, by his own voluntary act, takes it upon himſelf to bear arms as the military repreſentative of ſome one pariſh; and, by always remembering the honourable nature of the character he aſſumes, he ought to pride himſelf in ſupporting it like a man and a ſoldier.

"The great end of arming a militia is to defend the nation againſt foreign attacks, without expoſing it, at the ſame time, to that danger to liberty, which is juſtly to be apprehended from all other military eſtabliſhments; a militia-man is, therefore, the moſt honourable of all ſoldiers.

"It was with a deſign to impreſs continually theſe ideas upon our minds, that the device and motto, which are worn upon the button, and borne in the colours, of the regiment were choſen. The *book* is an emblem of *law*, and the *cap*, of *liberty*; ſo that the device repreſents *liberty ſupported by law, and defended by the arms of the militia*. The motto in Engliſh would run thus;—"*For our laws and liberties*." Such a ſtandard, no Engliſhman can quit but with his life. Of a ſimilar nature is the deſign which adorns the claſps of the officers ſword-belts.

"It

"It is meant to intimate, that, ſo long as the militia ſhall have virtue and courage to defend the religious and civil rights of their country, they will be bleſſed with the protection of Divine Providence, and enjoy the glorious reward of *freedom*.

"This, then, being the great cauſe in which we are engaged, every man amongſt us, who wants not the generous ſpirit of an Engliſhman, will delight in his duty, and cheerfully contribute to ſupport an exact diſcipline; becauſe it is impoſſible to do ſervice to our country, or credit to ourſelves, without it.

"In order, therefore, to render this taſk as eaſy as poſſible to the willing, and to prevent the undeſerving (if ſuch ſhould get amongſt us) from injuring and mortifying their fellow-ſoldiers, by bringing the regiment into diſgrace for want of cleanlineſs, or ſkill, knowledge, ſteadineſs, or integrity; theſe explanations are given, and ſtanding orders and inſtructions are eſtabliſhed, from which none can be allowed to depart or to deviate.

"But, before the ſeparate articles are treated of, it may not be improper to deſcribe, in a few words, what a ſoldier ought to be.

"A ſoldier ſhould be vigorous and brave, and particularly proud of his perſonal cleanlineſs and military appearance; he ſhould be temperate, regular, frugal, and provident; he ſhould be ſkilful and ready in all parts of his exerciſe and manœuvres; ſtrict in the performance of every duty and every movement, whether obſerved by his officer or not; and ſhew the ſame cheerful obedience to his corporal as his colonel. When poſted as a centinel, he ſhould be vigilant, careful, and determined; his life ſhould be leſs valued than the defence of his colours, or the preſervation of his honour; and, as the grand ſecret and ornament of a ſoldier in the field, he ſhould diſtinguiſh himſelf by conſtant attention, and an immovable ſteadineſs. To ſuch a ſoldier, every worthy officer will be a friend and a father.

"The firſt determination of a militia-man ſhould be, to put on a ſoldier's *character* with his *apparel*; and, ſince all his duties may be done with care and pleaſure, he ſhould ſcorn the thought of ever ſubjecting himſelf to compulſion or diſgrace. What a difference! To miſbehave, and to be treated like a baſe ſlave, tormented by the ſtings of remorſe, ſhame, and fear; or, to act as becomes the defender of his country's liberty, and to enjoy the grand privilege of freedom,—that of *living without fear of any man*.

"What a good ſoldier ſhould be, has been juſt now laid down; but let it be remembered, that, for making a good *ſoldier*, the beſt foundation is being a good *man*. A good man may always be relied upon; but, upon a bad man, there can be no dependence. When a ſoldier ſhall be a mere machine, like his firelock, then a bad man may make a good ſoldier, but not till then."

The

The introductory obſervations on giving inſtructions for a march are as follow:

"This is the time for the officer and the non-commiſſion officer to ſhew his attention and regard for order and regularity;—this is the time for the ſoldier to give proof of his diſcipline.

"There is no part of duty, during a campaign, of more importance than a march. Towns are taken, armies are defeated, and provinces won, by a march! There is, perhaps, no ſtandard of merit between regiment and regiment ſo much to be depended upon, as the mode in which they reſpectively perform a *march*. It is, therefore, incumbent upon a regiment, as it values its honour, to take all opportunities of conducting its removal, from one quarter to another, with every form and precaution of a march through an enemy's country.

"Diſorder upon a march is not only groſsly ſcandalous, but it retards and haraſſes the troops. It totally deprives them of that common principle of animation which they poſſeſs, while they move in one body, inſpired by one ſoul: it is attended with eaſy ſurpriſe, and ſure defeat.

"Order, on the contrary, commands reſpect, gives perfect ſecurity, let an enemy appear when and where he will, occaſions celerity, and eaſes the troops, by bringing them ſo much ſooner to their deſtined place of reſt and refreſhment.

"When a regiment conſiders a march as a field-day's exerciſe, never letting a rank or file be undreſſed, moving with a meaſured ſtep, puſhing forward with vigour and ſpirit, no man ſtirring out of his place, except at the regular halts, calculating to a minute its arrival at its deſtination, and there making its entrance with the ſame ſilent attention and ſteadineſs as is ſhewn before a reviewing general, then that regiment may be pronounced to be equal to any undertaking, and fit for any enterpriſe.

"From the circumſtances of long ſtages, bad roads, foul weather, heat of the ſun, &c. marches will ſometimes be fatiguing: but what then! an Engliſh ſoldier ſcorns as much to be out of humour or out of ſpirits at a neceſſary fatigue, as to want courage on the appearance of danger. The ſorry wretch, who can ſlink away from his comrades, or the dead-hearted looby, who groans and grumbles at an unavoidable fatigue, deſerves to be kicked out of the ranks, and left in a ditch; and ought ſo to be treated, were it not for diſgracing a regiment, by ſtrewing the road with ſtragglers. A ſoldier is deſtined to frequent hardſhips; but thence ariſes one of the glories of his character. Let him bear them like a man, and from his own breaſt he will have more than a recompenſe. He whoſe ſpirit will not bear him like a man through the common ſufferings of a ſoldier, let him tarry at home and rock the cradle!"

While at Hull, Major C. (as commanding officer of the regiment) received a threatening letter, in the uſual ſtyle

ſtyle of theſe epiſtles. An imaginary *claim* of the ſoldiers was the alleged motive; and the Major was threatened to be "ripped open," and have his "brains blown out," &c. An officer was with the Major when he opened and read the letter; but, with his uſual compoſure, he put it in his pocket without ſpeaking of its contents. The extreme danger to the writers of ſuch letters putting them proportionally on their guard, rare indeed have been the inſtances in which the offender has been detected; but, the penetration of Major C. leading him to probable grounds of ſuſpicion againſt four ſoldiers, as concerned in this buſineſs, he ſent them from the parade, each under charge of a ſergeant, to different quarters. By ſeparate examinations, he ſoon came at the truth, finding their landlord was the writer of the letter, which was confirmed by a copy found upon him, as well as a ſeal which perfectly tallied with the wax, by which the letter had been cloſed. Denial and doubt being equally impoſſible, and the offence not bailable, the offender was committed to priſon, and the Major bound to proſecute. The examination of each ſoldier, having commenced by reading to him the letter the Major had received, and with a promiſe of pardon on ſpeaking the truth, all the ſoldiers were diſmiſſed with a lecture on the eſcape they had had, and ſome wholeſome advice; and, as Major C. perſuaded himſelf the actual writer meant only to intimidate, and not to execute the threats he had uſed, he afterwards retained a counſel to inſtruct him how to fail in his proofs; which, under a humane judge, who ſoon perceived the object of the proſecutor, and agreed in opinion with him on the merits of the caſe, was not found difficult.

In 1779, the regiment marched from Hull to Portſmouth, and encamped on South-Sea Common. While there, it witneſſed the retreat of the Britiſh fleet into port before the combined fleets of France and Spain. Prior to this mortifying ſight, and when the enemy lay

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off Plymouth, while the Britiſh fleet was to the weſtward, great apprehenſions were entertained of an attempt, on the part of the enemy, to enter Spithead. On this occaſion, Major C. feeling the benefit of his naval knowledge, and having obtained permiſſion of General Monkton, reconnoitred the two entrances into Spithead; and, on the ſpur of the occaſion, ſketched a plan of defence, in which were combined military and naval operations. Both the Duke of Richmond, who has beſtowed much attention on the ſubject of fortification, and that able engineer, Colonel Debbieg, have borne their teſtimony to the merit of this plan, whatever it was; but we preſume it was never communicated to any but thoſe entruſted by the ſtate with ſuch documents.

In a letter to Major C. the Duke ſays, "I am much obliged to you for the very ingenious and noble plan you have ſent me for the defence of Portſmouth; which, for the moſt part, as well as your reaſoning on the ſubject, entirely co-incide with my ideas. Portſmouth as well as Plymouth will be beſt defended by," &c.*

Early in the year 1780, Major C. was the original mover of a general meeting in the county of Nottingham for a redreſs of grievances; in which attempt he met with the greateſt diſcouragement from a perſon of very high rank whom he conſulted, with prognoſtics of defeat from the great influence of government, and the ſuppoſed want of public ſpirit; but, entertaining a better opinion of the people, and perſevering with his uſual ſteadineſs, he found aſſociates amongſt the gentlemen of the county. A meeting was called, and very crowdedly attended; and, with the exception only of a ſingle negative, a petition to parliament and a committee of correſpondence were voted. From this committee, at which preſided the Duke of Portland, his brother Lord Edward Bentick (then member for the county) was afterwards delegated

* Letter to the Duke of Newcaſtle, p. 38, where the reaſons why the plan was not then acted on will appear.

to aſſiſt at the convention of deputies from the petitioning counties, cities, and towns, in attempting to obtain a reform in the repreſentation of the people in parliament.*

The writer of theſe memoirs believes it was in the ſpring of the ſame year that Major C. after months of exertion, effected, with the aſſiſtance of Mr. Capel Lofft and Dr. John Jebb, the formation of the Society for *Conſtitutional Information*; and its firſt addreſs to the public was of the Major's compoſition.

The ſociety ſoon became numerous, and had amongſt its members many diſtinguiſhed men, viz. the Dukes of Norfolk and Richmond; the Earls of Derby, Effingham, and Selkirk; Lords Kinnaird, Daer, and Sempill; Sir Cecil Wray, M. P. Sir James Norcliffe, Sir John Carter, Sir Watkin Lewes, M. P. Alderman Sawbridge, M. P. Alderman Hayley, M. P. Alderman Croſby, Sir William Plomer, Sir Barnard Turner, M. P. Mr. Horne Tooke, Alderman Townſend, M. P. Alderman Kirkman, M. P. James Martin, Eſq. M. P. William Smith, Eſq. M. P. Benjamin Vaughan, Eſq. M. P. Sir J. Sinclair, M. P. R. B. Sheridan, Eſq. M. P. the celebrated Sir William Jones, William Plumer, Eſq. M. P. R. S. Milns, Eſq. M. P. William Middleton, Eſq. M. P. Sir Joſeph Mawbey, M. P. Jervoiſe C. Jervoiſe, Eſq. M. P. Sir Watts Horton, Joſhua Grigby, Eſq. M. P. General Fitzpatrick, M. P. Philip Dehany, Eſq. M. P. Thomas Day, Eſq. author of Sandford and Merton, Dr. Kentiſh, Dr. Towers, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Melville, Mr. Sergeant Bond, Mr. Stratford Canning, (father of George Canning, Eſq. M. P.) Dr. John Jebb, Dr. Price, Dr. Brockleſby, Mr. Capel Lofft, Mr. Jackſon Barwis, Mr. Batley, the Rev. Chriſtopher Wyvill, and above two hundred other reſpectable gentlemen.

Major

* If the writer does not forget, the Marquis of Titchfield, at a ſingular period, when parliamentary reformation was to be ſtigmatized as ſomething nearly allied to high treaſon, and when the Duke had changed ſides, took ſome pains, in a ſpeech delivered in the Houſe of Commons, to exculpate *his noble* father from the hortid imputation of having ever favoured ſuch *reformation.*

Major C. was alſo author of the Declaration of Rights, which was publiſhed and diſtributed by the ſociety. At the ſame time the Major was an active member of the Weſtminſter Committee of Aſſociation, and likewiſe a delegate from the town of Nottingham in the aforeſaid convention of deputies,* over which that virtuous patriot, Mr. Wyvill, of Yorkſhire, preſided with ſo much honour to himſelf.

It was likewiſe in the ſpring of the year 1780 that Major C. publiſhed "The People's Barrier againſt undue Influence and Corruption."§

In July of that year the aforeſaid ſociety publiſhed a "Summary" of the treatiſe drawn up by that excellent patriot and very learned man Mr. Capel Loffft. Prefixed to the People's Barrier, we find an Addreſs to the Deputies of the petitioning Counties; and, in the nature of an appendix, another Addreſs to the Freeholders of Middleſex, the Livery of London, and the Electors of Weſtminſter.

The ſummer of this active year the Major ſpent in camp on Ranmer-Heath, in Surry; in the autumn he was a ſecond time invited to become a candidate for the town of Nottingham, where he would probably have then ſucceeded in his election, had it not been for one error in judgment of the patriotic party; and in the winter he received in marriage the hand of Miſs Daſhwood, the eldeſt daughter of Samuel Daſhwood, of Well, in the county of Lincoln, Eſq. This gentleman repreſented the elder branch of his family; the two younger branches being repreſented by the preſent Sir Henry Daſhwood and the late Lord Le Deſpencer. Mrs. Cartwright's mother was ſole heireſs of James Bateman, Eſq. of Well aforeſaid, (uncle of the preſent Lord Bateman,) and is now a widow.

* In this appointment, the celebrated Dr. Price and the Rev. George Walker were his colleagues.

§ The great Lord Camden ſpoke of this work to the late Nathaniel Smith, Eſq. M. P. and others of his friends, in terms of high encomium.

It was before the prorogation of parliament, in the ſummer of this year, that the Duke of Richmond brought in his bill for a reform in the repreſentation, on the principles laid down in the Major's book, making very honourable mention of the author in his introductory ſpeech.

The circumſtance which brought his Grace and the Major acquainted is ſo much to the credit of both parties that it deſerves to be known. In the Major's firſt publication on Reform, in the year 1777, he had expoſtulated with the then Oppoſition in terms of earneſtneſs and of ſome freedom. He had ſaid, that ſuch of them, as ſhould not pledge themſelves to immediate and unceaſing exertions, for effecting a complete parliamentary reformation, ought to be conſidered as no better than factious demagogues contending for a ſhare in the power and plunder of their country; and he had uſed other expreſſions of a ſimilar nature. The Duke, who before the publication of this work had not been aware of the wide breaches in the conſtitution it pointed out, and who was ſtruck by the Major's reaſoning with the neceſſity of repairing them, was yet ſenſibly ſtung with ſeverities of language which he thought unjuſtly pointed at him as well as others. Under theſe impreſſions, he put the book in his pocket, introduced himſelf to the author, turned to the offenſive paſſages, and read them with tokens of much reſentment; after which, he commented with ſeverity on the injuſtice and uncharitableneſs of appearing to ſuſpect the integrity of men, on a point to which their attention had not before been drawn. The Major pleaded the hypothetical nature of the language alluded to, the infinite importance of the ſubject, and the warmth of his own feelings. Diſcourſe enſued; and, after a converſation of two or three hours, they parted well enough pleaſed with each other. Although it was not without taking time to make himſelf thoroughly maſter of the ſubject, that the Duke received conviction of the truth

of

of the principles laid down by Major C.: it is well known, both by his bill above-mentioned, and by his celebrated letter to Colonel Sharman, that he early adopted thoſe principles without reſerve; and that his own unanſwerable arguments in their ſupport gained over to them thouſands of converts.

In the year 1781, while the convention of deputies ſtill ſat in London, appeared the Major's letters to thoſe deputies; the object of this ſmall piece being to convey correct notions on the nature of *repreſentation* as the only true guide in reforming a repreſentative body, which, through decay and corruption, had ceaſed to anſwer its conſtitutional ends.

The ſummer of this year was ſpent in camp at Gosport; and, about the end of the year, the Major loſt his father.

In 1782, continuing his exertions in the cauſe, and apparently conſidering what particular bodies of Engliſhmen were moſt likely to feel the force of his reaſonings, and ſeriouſly to exert themſelves for relief, he publiſhed "Give us our Rights; or a Letter to the preſent Electors of Middleſex and the Metropolis, ſhewing, &c." In Auguſt, of the ſame year, the Major again took a leading part in promoting a county-meeting in Nottinghamſhire, to petition for a reform in the repreſentation of the people in parliament; and, as it was the requeſt of the gentlemen, ſigning the requiſition, that the high ſheriff would conſult the moſt convenient ſeaſon for that purpoſe, he called a meeting for the 28th of October, when a petition was agreed on.

It was in this year alſo, the Major, as appears by the dates, gave a new edition of the "Declaration of Rights, without which no Engliſhman can be a free Man, nor the Engliſh Nation a free People," to which he now added a forcible appeal to the underſtandings of his countrymen, under this title, "For the great conſtitutional *Right* and *Duty*, as well as the *Wiſdom* and the Neceſſity, of being

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ARMED for defence of the *Peace*, the *Laws*, and the *Liberties*, of our Country, ſee the following Authorities and Arguments." This piece was not only printed and widely circulated, in a plain dreſs, by the Society for Conſtitutional Information, but was likewiſe publiſhed in an elegant ſtyle for being framed and glazed as an ornamental piece of furniture; the declaration having a broad margin or border enriched with emblems and allegories, verſes, and quotations, expreſſive of the contraſt between liberty and ſlavery, and illuſtrative of the doctrines of the Declaration.—A declaration, of which it was ſaid, by the immortal SIR WILLIAM JONES, (a member of the ſociety,) that "it ought to be written in letters of gold:" and a declaration over which the equally-immortal CHATHAM, with tokens of deep emotion, emphatically pronounced theſe words: "Aye, this is very right."*

Amongſt the other ornaments of this copper-plate print, a buſt of the Duke of Richmond is moſt conſpicuous, and, indeed, it is made the principal figure; and there are likewiſe medallions of Jebb, Northcote, Lofft, Sharp, and Cartwright, as thoſe by whom the doctrines of the declaration had been moſt ſucceſsfully inculcated.

With the commencement of the year 1783, Major C. engaged in agriculture; his elder brother, who had no reliſh for ſuch an occupation, having then transferred to him the farm in Nottinghamſhire, and all other agricultural concerns of his late father, which he had kept in his own hands for one year.

In 1784, the Major defended the virtuous cauſe of political reform, in which he had ſo long laboured, againſt the inſidious, but witty, attack of the celebrated Soame Jennings, in a pamphlet entitled (in alluſion to a well-known

* The Declaration was put into his hands by the late General Oglethorpe, who, upon a viſit to Mr. Granville Sharp, reported the fact to *Major C.; but the writer of theſe memoirs believes it was the firſt edition of the Declaration* that was ſhewn to Lord Chatham.

known work of that gentleman's) "Internal Evidence; or an Inquiry how far Truth and the Chriſtian Religion have been conſulted by the Author of *Thoughts on a Parliamentary Reform.*"

In March, 1785, Major C. was once more principally inſtrumental in aſſembling the county of Nottingham in the great cauſe next his heart. On that occaſion, he publiſhed, in a provincial newſpaper and in hand-bills, an addreſs under the title of "A Nottinghamſhire Farmer to his Brother-Freeholders; or a Call to the County-Meeting to be holden at Newark, to conſider the Propriety of petitioning the Houſe of Commons to reform the preſent unconſtitutional Repreſentation of the People in that Houſe, and to ſhorten the Duration of Parliaments."

Whether from this period the Major relaxed from his accuſtomed labours, in conſequence of a deluſive proſperity having indiſpoſed the nation to exertion for recovering its juſt liberties, or whether he remained ſilent from a reliance on the integrity of Mr. Pitt, and a belief that that miniſter would embrace a convenient opportunity of fulfilling his engagements to the public on the ſubject of a parliamentary reformation, it is not for the writer of theſe memoirs to determine. He can only ſay, that, between the years 1785 and 1792, he did not collect any productions of the Major's pen, nor does he recollect any thing publiſhed by him within that period; not but that a mind ſo active, and ſo devoted to the cauſe of reform, muſt probably have produced, in ſome form or other, both within that period and others, many things on the ſubject, which have not appeared with his name, or which might not be intended for publication.

In the year 1788, the Major, in conjunction with other friends, embarked in an undertaking in manufacture on a conſiderable ſcale; expecting it would prove to themſelves a beneficial ſpeculation, but knowing that it muſt, at all events, benefit their country in its favourite ſtaple

of wool. A large and beautiful building was ſoon erected, at Clarborough, near Retford, in the county of Nottingham; and, being covered in on the approach of winter, a holiday was given on the 5th of November, when, in commemoration of an event which had taken place exactly *one hundred years* before, an event dear to the recollection of every true Engliſhman, a hundred of King William's ſhillings were given to the workmen to regale themſelves, and the building was called *The Revolution-Mill.*

In this year, alſo, Major C. having previouſly ſold his eſtate at Darlton, in the county of Nottingham, purchaſed an eſtate in Lincolnſhire, of which the townſhip and manor of Brothertoft is the principal part. Here he ſhortly after fixed his reſidence, improving the eſtate, cultivating it with judgment, in a high-ſpirited and expenſive manner, and embelliſhing this retirement with taſte, but in a ſtyle of ſimplicity adapted to the title he gave it of *Brothertoft-Farm*; and here, dividing his time between the plough and the pen, he follows the occupation of a Cincinnatus and a Waſhington; and, if he have not had the good fortune of thoſe illuſtrious men of ſerving his country in high military commands, he has at leaſt ſhewn himſelf an emulator of their virtues, by ſacrificing his ambition at the ſhrine of his country, and boldly defending her deareſt intereſts.

The culture of our indigenous plant, *iſatis*, or *woad*, with the juice of which, it is ſaid, the ancient Britons ſtained their bodies, and which is an article much uſed by modern dyers, is at Brothertoft conducted on a large ſcale.

The woad is daily ground by means of a mill requiring the power of eight horſes, and the room in which the grinding-wheels act upon the plant is above forty feet ſquare, forming the centre only of a building nearly two hundred feet long and two ſtories high. In front and rear of the wings are erected lofty *ranges* containing ſome thouſand wooden grates, with galleries between them, on

which

which the woad, after ground and made into balls, is dried for preſervation. On one ſide of this ſingular group, which at a diſtance reſembles a great caſtle, and forming one front with the great building above-mentioned, is another building containing tenements for thirty or more families of the woad-labourers and the agent who ſuperintends them, a ſchool, and other conveniences; the whole together making a ſtriking appearance, and adorning this level country. It refreſhes the mind of the traveller by gratifying his eye with a pleaſing picture, and his mind with ideas of the earth's bounty, and of the benefits of human induſtry well directed. The eſtabliſhment is an unique, bearing many marks of invention, and the works in general being on a conſtruction much ſuperior to any which are applied to the ſame purpoſes either in this or any other country.

In 1789, the Major was invited, by a decided majority of the burgeſſes of Retford, to repreſent them in parliament, whereupon he declared himſelf a candidate in a hand-bill expreſſive of his political principles. It will not be thought ſurprizing that a little intercourſe with the electors of a petty borough ſhould have determined this gentleman to take his leave of them again, which he not long afterwards did, and Mr. William Petrie on the ſame intereſt was elected in 1790.

We muſt now attend the Major to dinner on a particular occaſion, becauſe this dinner had a conſiderable influence on ſome ſubſequent events concerning him. On the 14th of July, 1791, he met the Friends of Freedom at the Crown-and-Anchor Tavern, in London, to celebrate the Anniverſary of the fall of the Baſtille; and, within a month afterwards, he received a letter from his brother, who had a familiar acquaintance with the Duke of Newcaſtle, lord-lieutenant of Nottinghamſhire, to inform him, by deſire, that his Grace "could not conſiſtently with his political principles promote him to the va-*cant lieutenant*-colonelcy" of the militia; and it was added.

added, "this being the caſe, I preſume you will reſign immediately." In quoting theſe words in the "Letter to the Duke of Newcaſtle," which the Major ſoon after publiſhed, he ſays, "Reſign! No, my good brother, nothing like it. It is more agreeable to me to make knaves wince under my correction, than laugh at my pettiſh folly." In this letter to his Grace, which details a long ſeries of injuries, with a view, no doubt, of driving him out of the regiment, the Major, with a dignity becoming his own character, and with the ſpirit of an Engliſhman, arraigns the lord-lieutenant at the bar of the public, for a conduct "not only illiberal, but illegal: not only oppreſſive, but diſhonourable and unconſtitutional." "For aught that I know," ſays he, "this accuſation may be metamorphoſed into a breach of privilege; and I, the accuſer, may be called before the bar of that right honourable Houſe of which you are a member, to anſwer to that complaint. Should it ſo happen, my defence, my Lord, would ſtill be your crimination; and at that bar, I would ſtill aſſert, that your conduct has been illiberal, illegal, oppreſſive, diſhonourable, and unconſtitutional."

The Major did not, it ſeems, conceive he had any thing to fear from the power of the Houſe on that occaſion. Neither had he been more influenced by a piece of intelligence brought him, while preparing for the preſs the letter it was known he had written, although it ſeemed intended to divert him from his purpoſe of making it public: by an intimate acquaintance of the Duke's he had been told, and in the way of a friendly caution, that his Grace not long before had challenged a gentleman of the bar, who took ſome public liberties with his name.

But, to return to the celebration of the downfal of the Baſtille, and what followed upon it:—the lord-lieutenant of Nottinghamſhire not only refuſed to Major C. the lieutenant-colonelcy, which, after three or four promotions

tions over his head, at the inſtance of the colonel, and then unknown to the Major, he had *promiſed* him, but, in the month of September of that year, he commiſſioned another officer as Major, thereby diſmiſſing him, as his his Grace thought, from the regiment; and without even the civility of ſending him a meſſage to inform him of the event.* The tranſaction, however, being groſsly illegal, Major C. paid no regard to it; but, expoſing the indecency and the folly of the proceeding, he declared he ſhould "appear in his poſt when the regiment next aſſembled." Care was however taken not to call out the regiment at all in the year 1792, in which the Major's Letter was publiſhed; and, at an annual meeting of the deputy-lieutenants, aſſembled on the 23d of October, the mighty object of removing Major Cartwright from the militia, as fourteen years of ill-treatment had not provoked him to reſign, was at laſt accompliſhed. Under the *ſuppoſed* authority of a late act of parliament, he was ſuperſeded; and the deputy-lieutenants "Reſolved unanimouſly, That the thanks of this meeting be given to John Cartwright, Eſq. for his ſervices as Major in the Nottinghamſhire regiment of militia."

Notwithſtanding this decency of conduct in the meeting, few, perhaps, will be ſo ſceptical as to doubt, but that he was diſcharged as a *puniſhment* for publicly rejoicing, that twenty-five millions of human beings had broken their chains and aſſerted their freedom; and it muſt alſo be recollected, that the firſt ineffectual attempt at inflicting this *puniſhment* took place ſo early as September, 1791.

Some perſons, from the internal evidence alone of Major C.'s Letter to the Duke of N——, have thought, that to diſcharge from the national militia ſuch a man, to gratify either ſuch a Duke or his maſters, was an act to which it could not have been eaſy for Engliſh gentlemen

* *Letter to the Duke of Newcaſtle*, p. 78.

men to have ſtooped; eſpecially, after the Major had ſaid to this Duke, " either the labour of reading the law, for inſtructions how to proceed, was too great an effort; or you had a mind to ſhew *the deputy-lieutenants with how much contempt you could treat them.*"*—" Are we to underſtand, that you equally deſpiſed both *the law* and *the deputy-lieutenants?*† But be not, my good lord duke, diſcouraged; rally your ſcattered troops; *aſſemble your mercenaries*; call a council of war; and gallantly open a new campaign. Your future ability and proweſs may wipe away the paſt diſgrace; and your ſage brows may yet be decorated with the laurel of victory."‡

" Is it, then, the honourable tenure upon which every gentleman is to hold his commiſſion in *your* militia, that he preſumes not to rejoice but when you rejoice, nor to weep but when you weep? Is he neither to expreſs his ſatisfaction when other nations became free, nor to open his lips in favour of the liberties of his own country? But, at all events, I conclude, that he muſt make no attempt to remove abuſes in therepreſentation of Great Britain, be they ever ſo ſcandalous, or productive of ever ſo much injury to the rights, the intereſts, and the morals, of the people; ſo long as your Grace remains a borough-holder, and of courſe one of thoſe ******* who deſpoiled the Commons of that repreſentation in parliament, which belongs to them *alone?*—Theſe are ſerious queſtions, which my brother-officers, and thoſe of the whole Engliſh militia, will do well to conſider, as becomes their importance. It becomes them, as well as myſelf, to ſpurn at the knavery and inſolence of office, employed to root out from the militia all independency of mind. It becomes every man of us to expreſs his indignation whenever treated as the property of a court-dependent, poſſeſſing not ſufficient virtue to be himſelf the friend of either civil or religious freedom; nor wiſdom enough to ſhut up and conceal

* Page 59. † P. 69. ‡ P. 70.

conceal that want of virtue within the dark and narrow call of his own boſom."

By the intimate friends of Major C. it is well known, that, although he acquieſced in the diſcharge of 1792, for the ſake of his own repoſe, yet he laughed at it as *illegal.* It is only at *the end* of every *five* years, that, under the Act of 26 Geo. III. c. 107, a militia-officer *may be diſcharged.* From the 26th of his Majeſty, or 1786, the *only* legal periods of diſcharge are, of courſe, the years 1791, 1796, 1801, and ſo on. Hence it ſhould ſeem only neceſſary to be able *to count five,* to diſcover that a diſcharge in 1792 was not according to law.

In the ſpring of the year 1792, as appears from papers produced on the trial of Mr. Horne-Tooke, Major C. was a regular attendant at the Society for Conſtitutional Information, and frequently in the chair; and, by conſulting that trial, it will alſo be found, that a newly-founded patriotic ſociety about that time ſprang up in Southwark, which, in the declaration of its principles, made uſe of theſe expreſſions, "equal active citizenſhip," and "repreſentative government." Major Cartwright, thinking theſe expreſſions injudicious, viſited the ſociety in queſtion at one of its moſt numerous meetings, where he was received with much welcome, and allowed to join in its proceedings. Nor was that all; for, in a ſpeech calculated at once to inſpire patriotiſm, and to direct its exertions in the line of the conſtitution, and moving the ſociety to come to an explicit reſolution, declaratory of its attachment to a government of king, lords, and commons, the ſpeaker was much applauded, and his motion was unanimouſly adopted.

Hence it may be ſeen, that, although the energetic reaſoning and the uncommon eloquence of Paine, (who is an enthuſiaſt, in ſeaſon and out of ſeaſon, for governments ſimply repreſentative) had influenced theſe patriots to adopt in ſome degree his language, his doctrine in that particular had not ſunk into their hearts, and it was eaſy

for

for judicious men to convince them, that, under the circumſtances of their own country, it was right to adhere to a conſtitution, which, if enjoyed in its purity, would confer upon the people the ſolid bleſſings of repreſentation, although it admitted of particular privileges being poſſeſſed by a few. The Major, with the ſame views, viſited two or three other new ſocieties, and in each inſtance with the ſame ſucceſs: nor did he deſiſt, until he had obtained deputations from all of them, and from the parent-ſociety, of which he himſelf had been the founder, to meet together and vote, as the joint act of the whole, the ſame declaration. Here, then, will not the diſpaſſionate eye of reaſon diſcern the true character of theſe ſocieties? and well would it be, for the peace and happineſs of our country, were the *ariſtocracy* as ready as the *democracy* to liſten to the voice of this friend to the Engliſh conſtitution! Many have been his exhortations to the former, not to become a bar to a reform in our repreſentation, leſt the people, diſcovering that either privilege muſt be annihilated, or liberty muſt periſh, become univerſally Painites. Should that day ever arrive, it is not all the machinery of power that can keep the millions in ſubjection to a few lords in ermine. On the formation of the *Society of the Friends of the People, aſſociated for the purpoſe of obtaining a parliamentary reform*, which alſo happened in 1792, Major C. became a member; and that he was not either inactive or luke-warm we may ſafely conclude.*

We find, from the Major's writings, that in 1793, when the miniſterial plan for raiſing voluntary corps of ſelected perſons was propoſed in the diſtrict where he reſides, that he moved its rejection, and to ſubſtitute in its place one more conſtitutional, by inviting every tax-paying houſe-holder to arm, and by appointing a committee, conſiſting of the magiſtrates and other gentlemen, to conſult the law of the land for inſtructions

* See Commonwealth in Danger, p. 137.

ſtructions how to organize and regulate ſuch a force. In the ſame year, he alſo publiſhed his "Letter to a Friend at Boſton," vindicating the friends of parliamentary reformation, and calling on the aſſociators under the banner of Mr. Reeves, who profeſſed to ſupport a government of kings, lords, and *commons*, to act conſiſtently with their profeſſions, and containing, likewiſe, arguments againſt ruſhing into the preſent war.

About the time of the ſtate-trials, in 1794, he began to write "The Commonwealth in Danger," which was publiſhed in 1795. Beſides a controverſy of ſome length with the verſatile author of "*The Example of France a Warning to Britain*," this work takes an inſtructive view of the ſtate of the nation, and ſuggeſts important conſiderations reſpecting the means of repelling invaſion.

It cannot be ſuppoſed, that, when the whole nation was thrown into a ſtate of agitation by the bills of Lord Grenville and Mr. Pitt, for altering the criminal law of England reſpecting treaſon and ſedition, he, who is the ſubject of theſe memoirs, ſhould have been unmoved. The truth is, he warmly oppoſed, in a meeting at Boſton, an addreſs to the throne, in which an implied approbation was given to thoſe bills; and he likewiſe, in November, 1795, wrote and publiſhed a Letter to the High Sheriff of the county of Lincoln on the ſubject, alleging his inability from lameneſs to attend a county-meeting for addreſſing his Majeſty, and requeſting his written ſentiments might be read; which requeſt, however, was not complied with.* As containing the ſubſtance of his arguments againſt the two bills, he alſo included, as part of his letter to the Sheriff, a copy of an argumentative petition of ſome length, which in his own name he had tranſmitted to the Houſe of Commons, conjuring them not to paſs ſuch laws.† This petition was preſented by Mr. Fox, who on that occaſion obſerved, that "he had not the honour

* See p. 10 of the Appendix to this Letter.

† Letter, p. 23

honour of having the political ſupport of this gentleman; on the contrary, he had manifeſted the moſt ardent zeal in oppoſition to his meaſures when he had been in office; and had been equally ſincere and ſtrenuous in ſupporting the preſent adminiſtration, ſo long as he conceived their meaſures directed to the advancement of public happineſs; but, the inſtant Mr. Pitt abandoned the principles which had raiſed him to popularity and power, Major Cartwright had withdrawn his confidence and ſupport; but, laying aſide all partial conſideration, he was a man whom all parties reſpected. He was one whoſe enlightened mind, and profound conſtitutional knowledge, placed him in the higheſt rank of public character, and whoſe purity of principle and conſiſtency of conduct through life commanded the moſt reſpectful attention to his opinions." In this petition, Major Cartwright diſplayed the ſame magnanimity and patriotiſm which had diſtinguiſhed his conduct upon all occaſions, where the intereſts of his country were concerned.

In the month of May, 1796, Major C. received, from a body of electors of the borough of Boſton, an offer of a ſeat in parliament, which of courſe they profeſſed to be both willing and able to beſtow upon him; but he did not make his appearance as a candidate. In the ſame year, he publiſhed his "Conſtitutional Defence of England, Internal and External." The firſt part of which, relating to *internal* defence, is "a ſpeech intended to have been ſpoken to the high ſheriff and freeholders of the county of Lincoln, on the 6th of May, 1796, at a meeting to conſider of proper perſons to repreſent the county in parliament." The ſecond part is in the form of a letter, condemning the modes of arming, adopted by miniſters, as unconſtitutional, and recommending a revival of the *poſſe comitatus*; which he enforces with much general reaſoning, and ſome reference to ſtatutes and law-books.

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The character of the ſpeech may be collected from a ſingle ſentence of it. "As an individual freeholder, I came here perfectly diſengaged, to ſeek conſtitutional repreſentatives or none. I have no fox-hunting vote to beſtow on any one; neither have I a vote for party, nor for connexion; no, nor even for ſacred friendſhip. To my friend I will give my purſe, my hand, my heart; but I will not give him that which is not mine. My vote I hold in truſt; my vote belongs to my country, and my country alone ſhall have it!"—The whole compoſition breathes the ſame ſpirit, and its references to the French revolution, and to the Roman hiſtory after the loſs of liberty, deſerve to be read with particular attention by every nobleman and gentleman of England.

In 1797, the Major, ever vigilant in the cauſe of reform, had been active in his neighbourhood in promoting a freſh petition to parliament for that object; when the language of certain counter-petitioners appearing to him extremely unconſtitutional, it gave riſe to an "Appeal on the Subject of the Engliſh Conſtitution."

The ſeveral *Reviews* have rendered it unneceſſary for the writer of theſe memoirs to characterize this little work: they ſpeak of it as follows:

MONTHLY REVIEW.—"The pamphlet is diſtinguiſhed for moderation and ſound conſtitutional doctrine."

CRITICAL REVIEW.—"On the abſtract queſtion, in which our author is at iſſue with the anti-petitioners, we are decidedly of opinion, that law, hiſtory and right reaſon, are entirely on his ſide."

ANALYTICAL REVIEW.—"The day of redemption approaches, and, we believe, with no tardy ſtep. In the mean time Mr. Cartwright's efforts are not loſt. He is informing the mind of that public, without which nothing can be accompliſhed, and which muſt be enlightened before it can be uſed to advantage. The times are awful and propitious. We muſt be made perfect through ſuffering; but he is the beſt friend of his ſpecies, whoſe efforts are exerted to weaken the point or leſſen the amount of that ſuffering. We wiſh every neighbourhood had a Cartwright, and then we ſhould not fear a ſtorm. We ſhould then hope to ſee the repreſentation of the people corrected by peaceful and conſtitutional meaſures. This is our *firſt wiſh* for our country: may the abuſes of the conſtitution be corrected, and her peace be eternal."

BRITISH CRITIC.—"Major C. is an enthuſiaſt (we hope an honeſt one) in the cauſe of general, if not univerſal, ſuffrage. But, while he propoſes only the former, his arguments unfortunately go the whole length of the latter; for, if no man is free but he who has a vote in the choice

of a repreſentative in parliament, *his plan** undoubtedly excludes, from his beloved *civil liberty*, a very numerous part of the nation, and reduces them to what he calls *legal protection*; which, the Major tells us, may be equally well enjoyed under the moſt arbitrary government, &c. †

"In *his plan* of arming houſeholders throughout the kingdom, for the defence of their property and the conſtitution, we cordially agree, and the Major muſt rejoice with us in the happy accompliſhment of his wiſhes," &c. ‡

"The reſt of this tract conſiſts of an expoſition of the writer's general ſentiments on political or civil liberty, for which his great authority, his Magnus Apollo, is the Earl of Abingdon!" &c.

"But we would recommend to the writer to re-conſider thoſe principles, § (or, as we ſhould call them, prejudices,)" &c.

The year 1798 was ſcarcely uſhered in, when Major Cartwright, in conjunction with half a dozen honeſt neighbours, once more adverti ſed for a public meeting, with a view of obtaining another petition for reform; and certain propoſitions, intended to be moved as the grounds of ſuch petition, were circulated with the ſummons. The extraordinary interference of a magiſtrate, previous to the intended meeting, cauſed the invitation to be withdrawn by the Major and his friends, in order "to defeat the evil deſigns of ſuch as might meditate the raiſing of a diſturbance, with a view of charging it upon the friends of reform;"‖ but the circumſtance of this interference gave riſe to the publication of a new edition of the "Appeal," with very large additions.

The Major appears to have begun the additions ſo early as the month of March, 1798, although the laſt hand, as, it ſhould ſeem by dates in the work, was not put to it for twelve months. The author's ſubject being the "Engliſh Conſtitution," he has not confined himſelf to the local violations of it that firſt called forth his pen, but has taken an extenſive view of the injuries it has ſuſtained,

* A plan of reform, which, as far as it goes, is founded on juſt principles, and which, at the ſame time, falls far ſhort of the author's known ideas of rectitude, is no ill evidence of moderation.

† Among the abſtruſe queſtions in politics, perhaps, few diſtinctions are more important than that which is here ſo imperfectly quoted from the author, between *legal protection* and *political liberty*.

‡ "Accompliſhment!" By poetical figure, an acorn may be called an oak.

§ The Major, it ſeems, has not only *re-conſidered* them, but *re-publiſhed* them *without* alteration, and with much additional matter in their ſupport.

‖ Page 64.

tained, the corruptions it has undergone, and the abuſes to which it is every day expoſed. He has, alſo, at leaſt to the mind of the writer of theſe memoirs, placed it in a new point of view, as "a two-fold and admirable ſyſtem of civil and military polity moſt happily combined; whereby theſe two characters, like the faculties of intellectual ability and bodily force in man, are inſeparably interwoven, and conſtitute a complete ſtate or *free* government."* Free, indeed, and glorious would it be, if its principles, as clearly eſtabliſhed by his pen, were the rule of practical government!

Whether we follow him in his judicious corrections of that great man, Sir William Blackſtone; or, in his manly vindication of the rights of juries; or, in his acute obſervations on the liberty of the preſs; or, in his maſterly aſſertion of the ſovereignty of the people; or, in his diſpaſſionate obſervations on the propoſed union with Ireland; or, in his demonſtration of the incompetence of parliament to change the conſtitution; or, in his refutation of long-eſtabliſhed, but erroneous, maxims in the art of war, and his luminous revival of that military ſyſtem which was "the nobleſt legacy of an Engliſh king of kings, the greateſt that ever bore earthly rule;"* we ſhall at leaſt have reaſon to ſay that he deſerves the thanks of his country.

The memoirs of Major Cartwright, down to the preſent period, ought not to be concluded without mentioning the late ſpirited advertiſement of his Appeal; which advertiſement exhibits his opinion of the preſent ſtate of this nation.

To thoſe who may deſire to know more of the *private* hiſtory of Major Cartwright than has appeared in theſe pages, let it be obſerved, that the little incidents of retired life, unleſs mixed up with fiction, and faſhioned into a tale by the hand of the noveliſt, will ſeldom gratify expectation. Wherefore the writer of theſe memoirs has not been ſolicitous to collect private anecdotes of his friend, think-

* Preface.

ing a few that are characteriſtic will be ſufficient for publication; for, ſuch only can be of general concern.

That an Engliſhman, who, prior to hoſtilities with America, had vindicated her right to independence, and adviſed an admiſſion and declaration of it by parliament, ſhould enjoy the particular regard and eſteem of Americans, who perſonally knew him, is moſt natural. There were a few at that time in London with whom he became intimate; and one of theſe was a man of good connexions in his own country. The Major calling rather late one evening upon this friend, a perſon booted and ſpurred retired juſt as he entered the room. The American gentleman, after a little converſation, appearing abſorbed in thought, the Major, judging his viſit unſeaſonable, was taking his leave. His friend ſtopped him, and attempted to aſſume his accuſtomed eaſe; but ſoon again fell into ſilence and abſence. The Major took his hat; and his friend again with earneſtneſs urged his ſtay; but other relapſes and tokens of a labouring mind occurring, the viſitor was forcing himſelf away; but his friend ſtepped between him and the door, and held out his hand as forbidding a retreat. After walking a few ſeconds in ſilence and apparent agitation, he turned ſhort to the Major and ſaid, "I am going to ſhew the confidence I repoſe in you. France has ſigned a treaty of alliance with my country; the man you ſaw had juſt brought me the expreſs from ——, at Paris; and, as it would be ſome hours after that expreſs came away before the Engliſh ambaſſador would be in poſſeſſion of the fact, miniſters here will probably be ignorant of the event all to-morrow." He then gave an outline of the treaty, of which the certainty of an early French war was the moſt ſtriking feature.

Here then was ſuch an opportunity for a 'Change-Alley ſpeculation, or other means of ſafely turning the intelligence to a gambling account, as might have made the fortune of an unſcrupulous man; but he, to whom it was *communicated*, made no ſuch attempt, thinking that all

gaming

gaming with an ignorant adverſary, and with a certainty of winning, was no better than robbery; as well as that no man ought to play for a greater ſtake than, in the event of loſing, he was able to pay. And, when this temptation was thrown in his way, the Major had no other certain income than his half-pay as a naval lieutenant. Thus the important intelligence of his friend had no other effect upon his mind than to fill it with indignation at the maſs of vice and folly which then poiſoned the counſel sof the ſtate and were profuſely ſowing the ſeeds of calamity to his country.

From another anecdote, which has alſo relation to *play*, the faſhionable reader will learn with ſurpriſe, that, although Major C. has been married nearly twenty years, he has never yet poſſeſſed ſuch a piece of furniture as a card-table; nor were cards ever admitted into his houſe, except for the amuſement of aged viſitors, or of a ſick perſon requiring ſuch an indulgence. His rejection of cards is not accompanied with any thing cynical, but from ſeeing and knowing the ill effects of habit. He was particularly pleaſed with a paſſage in a ſermon of his friend George Walker, obſerving, that "cards were invented for the amuſement of a royal idiot, and they bid fair to make idiots of us all." He was alſo much diverted with an inſane nobleman he once ſat down with to cards, in company with the relation who had the care of him. My lord played very gravely until *tired*, which happening to be in the middle of a deal, he threw down his cards and took his walk; and this the Major frequently calls the moſt rational game at cards he ever played. But the great cauſe of his diſtaſte to play was what happened to him early in life. He had at one time, as he often relates, ſo far given the reins to thoſe paſſions, which make men gameſters, that, for ſix weeks, he ſcarcely ever quitted the card-table, playing with the keeneſt reliſh, from early morn till late at eve, and but ſcantily allowing himſelf the refreſhments of food and ſleep; and, to add to the

fascination

faſcination, he had played with ſucceſs at the end of this period. He reflected on this madneſs, and on practices he had detected in ſome of the players; and he determined on a ſolitary ſerious walk. This walk he took on the ſummit of Portſdown Hill, which overlooks Portſmouth and the ſea, the deſtined theatre, as he then thought, of his future life. The nature of his ſelf-interrogation, while contemplating the magnificent proſpect before him, and the courſe of his thoughts, will be collected, when, to uſe his own expreſſion, it is obſerved, that, at this moment, "the tide turned, and ever afterwards ſet in a contrary direction."

The late inſtitution of a Society to improve Naval Architecture recals to mind a ſuggeſtion thrown out thirty years ago by Mr. Cartwright, then a midſhipman, that, under due encouragement to ingenious men, in the ornamenting our ſhips of war, we might, in due time, expect to ſee ariſe, in this country, a nautic *order* of architecture. "It will readily be admitted," ſaid he, "that arms alone, without arts, could never have raiſed the Greeks or Romans to that authority they acquired in the world," &c. And, ſpeaking of naval ſculpture, he obſerved, "In all the productions of genius in this claſs, there is a certain ſtyle and character, transfuſed through the whole, which give them a peculiar grace, beauty, and propriety, as embelliſhments of moveable fabrics on a liquid element, and ſuch as demonſtrate that a nautic order of architecture is reducible to a ſyſtem of general rules and principles, while its variety muſt be infinite, and its proportions various without imperfection." See a letter ſigned INSULARIS, in the St. James's Chronicle, in April, 1769.—The Society of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, appears to have taken the hint; for, very ſoon afterwards, a premium was offered for the beſt ſpecimen of a nautic order; but the few candidates who appeared did not underſtand the ſociety's intention: the ſpecimens produced were not of the nature they ſought, being of

matters

matters appertaining to the mere ſhip-carpenter inſtead of the draughtſman and ſculptor.

The Major has no children, except, as he phraſes it, "a borrowed one," a niece whom he has brought up from an infant, and with whom he is not likely to part, until ſhe may form a nearer connexion. The extent and the nature of his friendſhips have been delicately touched by his own hand.—"What! muſt you aſſail me!" ſays he to the Duke of N. page 25, "even in my friend! Muſt his integrity be corrupted! muſt his honour be ſtained! and a conſciouſneſs of baſeneſs attend him to the grave, rather than that I ſhould not receive a mortification. Fie! fie!—Had you ſucceeded there, you had conquered me indeed; you had effectually driven me from the corps; it had been a ſtab I could not have reſiſted.—Where is the man capable of beholding one, whom once he honoured, fallen from the dignity of virtue and the nobility of friendſhip!—My nerves had been unequal to the taſk! But, thank God, the friendſhips of my life have ever been with men of principle. The circle, indeed, is ſmall; but it is a circle, within which I entertain no apprehenſion of ever being deſerted or betrayed."—As a ſon, there is none now to ſpeak of him; as a huſband, a brother, an uncle, a maſter, a landlord, and a neighbour, if the writer of theſe memoirs may judge, the ſentiments entertained of him are ſuch as much contribute to his happineſs.

It is a favourite artifice of ſome men to repreſent the noble ſpirits who ſtruggle againſt oppreſſion and tyranny as tyrants in their own families, and of diſagreeable qualities in the private circles of ſociety. How well ſuch a repreſentation would be founded in the preſent caſe, let the reader judge from the following words received by the writer in anſwer to a letter of inquiry, which, amongſt others, he ſent to a very reſpectable clergyman in Nottinghamſhire, ſo circumſtanced as to be able to give the fulleſt information from his own knowledge: "Major C.

preſent Majeſty to the throne, promoted, from being Earl of Kildare, to be Marquis of Kildare and Duke of Leinſter; (the latter is the eldeſt ſon's title of that family.) He is alſo Viſcount Taplow of Great Britain, and as ſuch has taken his ſeat in the Britiſh Houſe of Peers.

His Grace is not leſs nobly deſcended in the maternal line:—his mother, the dowager-dutcheſs of Leinſter, is ſiſter to the preſent and daughter of the late Duke of Richmond, and thus allied as well to the King of Sardinia as to the two rival relatives who had ſo long contended for the imperial crown of Great Britain,—thoſe of Brunſwick and Stuart.

The Duke of Leinſter received the firſt part of his education at Eton-School; whence he went to the Univerſity of Cambridge, and, after taking a degree, viſited moſt of the polite courts of Europe, where the rank of Marquis of Kildare procured him not more attention and reſpect than his amiable qualities peculiarly commanded.

His Lordſhip, charmed with the manners, the climate, and the fine arts, (of which he is not only an admirer, but a great patron,) of Italy, ſpent moſt of thoſe years, devoted to making the grand tour, in that delightful country. He was upon his travels when the preſent Marquis Townſhend was appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland, who, in the year 1768, gave the royal aſſent to the Octennial Bill, which then changed the duration of the Iriſh parliament, from being perpetual to the period of eight years. The perpetual parliament was then diſſolved, and a general election immediately followed; at which the freemen and freeholders of the city of Dublin nominated the Marquis of Kildare, who was then in Italy, and juſt entered into the twenty-ſecond year of his age, a candidate to repreſent them.

This ancient family felt themſelves much flattered by the kind partiality manifeſted, in this inſtance, by the citizens of Dublin towards their eldeſt ſon. They accepted the invitation; the Marquis was declared a candi-

date,

date, and a canvas upon the part of his Lordſhip immediately commenced.

The conteſt which took place at this election was greater than any which has ſince occurred on a ſimilar occaſion. One candidate,* was almoſt unanimouſly returned; but the Marquis of Kildare was oppoſed by John La Touche, Eſq. whoſe father was then living, and was the richeſt and moſt reſpectable banker in Ireland. The firm of his houſe is yet continued by his ſons, (one of whom is John,) and continues to be marked with the ſame liberality and integrity which has diſtinguiſhed it for near a century, and given it the character of being, perhaps, the firſt private banking-houſe in the empire.

The Marquis being abroad, a gentleman of much celebrity, and at that time well known all over Europe, (the late John St.-Leger, Eſq.) became *locum tenens* for his Lordſhip, in whoſe favour the election ultimately terminated after a long conteſt, which is ſtated to have coſt each of thoſe two candidates above twenty thouſand pounds, while Doctor Lucas was returned free of expenſe.

This parliament, the firſt aſſembled after the paſſing the Octennial Bill, continued almoſt the full period of its limitation, being called together in the year 1768, and not diſſolved until the year 1776; at which time, the death of the late Duke of Leinſter prevented the Marquis from again becoming a candidate for the Iriſh metropolis, as he had now ſucceeded his father in his title and eſtates.

During the American war, a deſcent of the combined enemy upon Ireland was not only meditated, but ſeriouſly apprehended, and among the numerous corps which formed the volunteer armies of Ireland, a regiment was embodied at Dublin, in the year 1778, compoſed of the moſt reſpectable merchants and traders of that city, called the

* The late Doctor Lucas, an Iriſh phyſician of great eminence, a man not leſs celebrated for his great abilities than his genuine patriotiſm; and to whoſe memory the citizens of Dublin have erected a finely ſculptured pedeſtrian marble ſtatue in the Royal Exchange of that city.

the *Dublin Volunteers*, who unanimouſly elected the Duke of Leinſter their colonel.

The ſpirit of the nation rapidly augmented this army of the people; and, upon the 4th of November, 1799, his Grace acted in the capacity of reviewing-general of all the corps of Dublin and the neighbouring counties.

There were ſome men at this time in the Duke of Leinſter's regiment, whoſe patriotiſm indicated a ſtrong tendency to degenerate into ſedition: the ſpirit by which they were actuated ſpread itſelf among other corps; his Grace warmly reprobated, in the Houſe of Peers, their ſymptoms of diſaffection, and recommended, in their room, a ſteady perſeverance, tempered with moderation, in the attainment of thoſe great conſtitutional meaſures which the Iriſh volunteer army were then ſeeking, and afterwards obtained in the year 1782. This moderate conduct adopted by the Duke much offended ſome of the members of his Grace's regiment; they immediately ſeceded, and formed a corps, which they called the *Independent* Dublin Volunteers.

From this period, the popularity of the Duke of Leinſter continued to abate, and his Grace no longer held the diſtinguiſhed character of reviewing-general of the Iriſh-volunteer army; that honour was conferred upon the Earl of Charlemont, who continued in the undiſturbed enjoyment of that rank as long as the volunteers remained embodied.

The Duke of Leinſter frequently delivers his ſentiments in the Iriſh Houſe of Lords, and, as a public ſpeaker, acquits himſelf with a very fair degree of credit: his politics, however, do not poſſeſs that conſiſtent firmneſs, which in moſt caſes is neceſſary to inſure the appellation of a ſteady patriot; though, in reality, few men are better diſpoſed to promote the real intereſts of their country.

His Grace's moderation and complacency, in his public capacity, are as conſpicuous as his amiable and endearing diſpoſition in private life. His having accepted, at different times, certain offices under the crown, when he happened to co-operate with adminiſtration, has in many inſtances

inſtances ſhaken that public confidence which otherwiſe would have invariably attached to him.

Some few years ſince, his Grace held the office of Maſter of the Rolls in Ireland, now jointly held by the Earls Glandore and Carysfort; and again, ſo lately as the adminiſtration of Earl Fitzwilliam, he accepted the office of Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper.

When the important queſtion of Regency was agitated in 1789, the Duke of Leinſter ſupported the meaſure of appointing the Prince of Wales regent without any reſtriction, and, with Earl Charlemont, conſtituted the deputation from the Iriſh Houſe of Lords, to wait upon his Royal Highneſs with their addreſs for that purpoſe.

His Grace married the daughter of the late Lord St. George, by whom he has ſeveral children. His eldeſt daughter, Lady Mary Fitzgerald, lately married General Sir Charles Roſs; his eldeſt ſon, the preſent Marquis of Kildare, is now about ten years old. The Dutcheſs of Leinſter died in the laſt year, greatly lamented, in Berkeley-Square, London.

The Duke of Leinſter's elder brother, Lord Charles Fitzgerald, is now an admiral in his Majeſty's navy. His ſecond brother, Lord Henry, was, during the late Iriſh parliament, the colleague of Mr. Grattan, in the repreſentation of the city of Dublin, to which they were both elected free of expenſe, in oppoſition to two aldermen of that city, who were ſupported by the patronage of government. His third brother, Lord Robert, was formerly ſecretary to the Duke of Dorſet, at the court of Verſailles, and afterwards *chargé des affaires* in France; and is now ambaſſador at Copenhagen, from the court of St. James's. His younger brother, the late Lord Edward Fitzgerald, terminated his political career, during the late unhappy rebellion in the ſiſter-kingdom, in a manner too melancholy to dwell upon.

Leinſter-Houſe, his Grace's town-reſidence at Dublin, is the moſt princely manſion in that city; and has com-

try-ſeat, at Carton, in the county of Kildare, is not leſs magnificent; it is ſituated about twelve miles from Dublin, upon his Grace's eſtate, which, though occupying above eighty thouſand acres in that county, did not produce, at the late general election in Ireland, one hundred regiſtered *Proteſtant* freeholders.

His Grace, ſome years ſince, built a very neat and regular town, (called Maynooth,) adjoining his country-reſidence, principally inhabited by an humble race of manufacturers; and near this town he granted a large piece of ground, containing ſeveral acres, to the truſtees of a ſeminary, eſtabliſhed by act of parliament, in the year 1795, for the education of Roman Catholic youth;* upon which they have ſince erected a very handſome and commodious college for that purpoſe.

No tenantry are more affectionately treated by a landlord than thoſe of the Duke of Leinſter: he almoſt conſtantly reſides among them, and the poor on his eſtate enjoy the continual diſtribution of comfort in their neceſſities, from the hoſpitable and princely manſion of Carton.

The Duke of Leinſter has hitherto ſent eight members into the Iriſh Houſe of Commons, viz. two for the county of Kildare, two for the borough of Kildare; two for the borough of Athy, and two for the borough of Harriſtown.

Notwithſtanding the great eſtate poſſeſſed by the Duke of Leinſter, the incumbrances which muſt always attach to ſo large a family, by the fortunes of brothers and ſiſters, jointures, children, &c. &c. with many other circumſtances, added to his munificence in private life, have occaſioned his Grace ſometimes to have experienced pecuniary embarraſſments; to alleviate which, he diſpoſed of

* The Iriſh Government deemed it neceſſary to eſtabliſh this ſeminary for the education of the Roman Catholic youths, to obviate the ill effects of foreign education, and of principles of foreign politics, imbibed by gentlemen of that perſuaſion. The liberality of parliament has already granted, from time to time, within the laſt three years, thirty-ſix thouſand pounds in aid of this inſtitution; and an implied promiſe to grant it an annual ſtipend of eight thouſand pounds. This ſtipend, having in the *preſent year*, paſſed through the Houſe of Commons, was nevertheleſs *rejected by the Lords.*

of his borough of Harriſtown, in the year 1793, to John La Touche, Eſq. an eminent banker of Dublin, for the ſum of ſixteen thouſand pounds.*

The melancholy fate of his Grace's younger brother, and the recent death of his amiable Dutcheſs, appear to have greatly affected him, and for the preſent, at leaſt, to have withdrawn him from public life. He is at this time in the fifty-third year of his age. W. Y.

MRS. INCHBALD.

ON laying before our readers a few particulars relative to a lady of eminent abilities, it might be natural for us to introduce our remarks with complimenting the advocates of the Rights of Woman; and, when ſpeaking of a lady equally diſtinguiſhed for the attractions of her perſon, as the ſuperiority of her talents, it might be expected of the writer to expreſs himſelf in terms of the higheſt admiration.

There is, unqueſtionably, ample room for compliſmentary language, and many rhetorical flouriſhes, on the preſent occaſion. But, in Mrs. Inchbald, there are ſtill higher grounds for eulogium. Her moral character conſtitutes her principal excellence; and, though uſeful talents and perſonal accompliſhments, of themſelves, form materials for an agreeable picture, moral qualities give the poliſh that faſcinates the heart.

The hiſtory of this amiable woman is, in a very great degree, intereſting, and, to ſpeak the truth, not a little romantic. But a hint only will be here attempted; for, a complete view of the moſt important events of ſuch a life

* The liberality of Mr. John La Touche in this tranſaction deſerves to be noticed. His newly erected country-houſe, which is ſpacious and coſtly, in the centre of an extenſive and highly improved demeſne, ſtands within this borough; and when he found the Duke of Leinſter was about to diſpoſe of it, he communicated with his Grace to know the price, which the Duke laid at fourteen thouſand pounds. Juſt at this time, ſeveral boroughs were in the market: among others, the Earl of Weſtmeath was diſpoſing of the borough of Fore to the Marquis of Downſhire; when Mr. La Touche replied, that, as his houſe and demeſne were upon this borough, it ought to bring as much money as any other borough, and accordingly he paid the Duke of Leinſter what ſome others had ſold for, viz. *ſixteen thouſand pounds.*

life would require a conſiderable volume; and a work of this kind, it is expected, will be ſhortly laid before the public, written by Mrs. Inchbald's own pen, a work which, whenever it makes its appearance, will, we doubt not, excite great intereſt, and convey much uſeful inſtruction.

Retirement, generally ſpeaking, has been the nurſery for the moſt diſtinguiſhed characters.—The birth-place of Mrs. Inchbald was an obſcure village, five miles from Bury St. Edmunds, in Suffolk. Her father's name was Simſon, a farmer, who had a large family, diſtinguiſhed for the beauty of their perſons. Elizabeth, the preſent Mrs. Inchbald, was particularly handſome; but, having a natural impediment in her ſpeech, ſhe contracted, very early in life, an attachment to retirement, and a great fondneſs for reading, which excited in her, at the age of ſeventeen, a ſtrong deſire of viſiting the metropolis, of which ſhe had read ſo much in novels. She accordingly rambled from her father's houſe, without acquainting an individual with her intentions, and came to London, a mere inquiſitive adventurer.

On Mrs. Inchbald's arrival in London, and diſappointment, (for, the friend, on whoſe counſel ſhe relied, had left her place of reſidence in the metropolis,) ſhe thought that the profeſſion which moſt readily offered itſelf to her was that of an actreſs; a profeſſion, however, in which ſhe might have expected to meet with ſome difficulties.

In London, ſhe married Mr. Inchbald, of Drury-Lane Theatre, and went with him to Edinburgh, where ſhe continued four years, and performed the principal parts there, when ſhe was but eighteen years of age.

From this circumſtance we may draw a concluſion, that Mrs. Inchbald's unſucceſsful attempts, hitherto, proceeded principally from natural impediments and private prejudices: for, one who could with tolerable acceptance appear at ſo early a period, as a principal actreſs, muſt have poſſeſſed a conſiderable degree of intellect, and no common inſight into the human character.

At

At length, Mrs. Yates, who had been long in poſſeſſion of the public approbation in London, retired to Edinburgh, in conſequence of a diſagreement with the manager of Drury-Lane houſe, and became a formidable rival to Mrs. Inchbald. We ſhall not enter on a detail: ſuffice it to ſay, that our fair actreſs experienced many incivilities from Mrs. Yates; in conſequence of which ſhe and her huſband quitted Edinburgh Theatre, and paſſed two years at York in the theatrical character.

Indifferent health, brought on by trials of a private and delicate nature, occaſioned Mrs. Inchbald's quitting York to paſs a twelvemonth in the South of France, whence ſhe returned to England with a new ſtock of health, and with a mind ſtored with new ideas, prepared to encounter the other difficulties that make up this life of adventures.

Soon after her arrival in England, ſhe loſt her huſband; and, though her marriage had been rather the reſult of gratitude than of the tender affection, (for, there was a great diſproportion in the ages of Mr. and Mrs. Inchbald,) her conduct, on this occaſion, reflected on her the higheſt honour. She now continued to act, for four years, at Covent-Garden Theatre, and experienced ſome mortifications. At the end of which, ſhe accepted a place, not a very advantageous one, on the Dublin Theatre. Thus was ſhe fated to be paſſed from theatre to theatre.

On quitting the Dublin Theatre, Mrs. Inchbald returned once more to Covent-Garden, where ſhe continued an actreſs for ſome years; which ſituation ſhe ſuddenly relinquiſhed, continuing, however, to reſide in London, though in great obſcurity, and oppreſſed with poverty.

Conſidering the obſtructions that even nature had thrown in her way, Mrs. Inchbald had no reaſon to complain of that ſhare of the public attention which ſhe obtained. She,

however, was now quite ſatisfied in relinquiſhing for ever all thoughts of the ſtage, as an actreſs. It muſt not, however, be paſſed unnoticed, that, during the whole period of Mrs. Inchbald's theatrical engagements, ſhe maintained an unblemiſhed character; that the incidents of her life, though they have been made the ſubject of much converſation in the gay world, could never expoſe her to the cenſure of even the moſt ſerious and ſevere, that the worthy part of both ſexes, who were honoured with her acquaintance, highly eſteemed her worth. Her acquaintance with Mrs. Siddons and Lady Derby more particularly ſtrengthened into friendſhip; and Mrs. Inchbald left behind her a character that may ſtand in oppoſition to the prejudices of ſuch as think that an actreſs cannot be a virtuous woman. Nothing argues greater illiberality and littleneſs of intellect than ſuch general concluſions; and it is but juſtice to obſerve, that there are to be found, among thoſe who have devoted themſelves to the theatrical life, many perſons of the moſt exemplary conduct.

Of the conduct of Mrs. Inchbald, as a woman of honour, even amidſt all the gaiety of youth, and the powerful influence of a moſt faſcinating perſon, there is but one opinion.

Henceforth, then, we are to conſider Mrs. Inchbald in the light of an author only, in which character ſhe holds a reſpectable ſtation, and procures a very genteel independence. Her literary department is, comedy, farce, tranſlation, and novel.

The firſt piece ſhe offered to Mr. Colman was a comedy, in five acts, entitled *I'll Tell you What*, whoſe hard fortune, however, it was to lie unnoticed, in the manager's hands, till the ſucceſs of a much ſmaller piece, The Mogul Tale, or the Deſcent of the Balloon, excited his curioſity

curioſity to give it a peruſal. The reception which this admired comedy obtained is well known. The writer has preſerved the true province of comedy, which is a regard to manners, and an exhibition of character. The ſtyle poſſeſſes that ſprightlineſs, the alluſions that *naïveté*, which could not fail to pleaſe.

The manager, Mr. George Colman, an incomparable judge, accredited this comedy by a prologue, written by himſelf, and the public approbation ſtamped it as a performance of merit. The tide of Mrs. Inchbald's fortune, therefore, now began to turn. No longer perplexed as an actreſs, whoſe engagements, we have ſeen, were always precarious, and whoſe ſalary was ſeldom great; no longer mortified by undertaking writings, for which ſhe could not procure a purchaſer; ſhe now ſaw her proſpects brighten. Accordingly ſhe began to enlarge her rules of economy, and changed her humble lodgings for one more ſuited to her circumſtances; for, the great excellence in the conduct of Mrs. Inchbald has ever been a ſtudied economy; by which, always accommodating her mode of living to her circumſtances, ſhe preſerved, even amidſt her humble fortunes, a high ſenſe of moral dignity and her independence.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT has been followed by other comedies, all of a ſimilar caſt as to ſtyle, character, and incident. Their titles are as follow: *Such Things Are; Every One has his Fault; The Wedding-Day; Wives as they Were, and Maids as they Are.* Our limits will not allow us to enter on particulars; ſuffice it to ſay, that each of them has been favourably received by the public; and that (I am not inquiring into their *peculiar* excellencies or defects) they poſſeſs that clear familiar ſtyle, ſeaſoned with ſmartneſs, without being debaſed by groveling ſenti-

ments or groſs language, which is the characteriſtic of *genteel* comedy.

The department of Mrs. Inchbald, then, confines itſelf to comedy. She ſeems never to have attempted tragedy, or even what is called tragi-comedy. Her province, therefore, was humour and ſatire, occaſionally interſperſed with the ſerious, agreeable to the coſtume of modern comedy. But, as this ſpecies of writing is much converſant with the ridiculous, it was natural for Mrs. Inchbald to undertake that ſpecies of comic writing known by the name of farce.

It is the province of farce rather to caricature, than accurately to delineate character, the proper ſphere of comedy. Accordingly, we expect to find in it buffooneries, extravagancies, and falſe humour. Though Mrs. Inchbald, therefore, has thought proper to entitle ſome of her ſmaller pieces farces, we ſhall take the liberty of calling them comedies in *two*, or *three*, or *four* acts; and this obſervation can offend none, who recollect, that, as comedy frequently ſinks into farce, ſo farce frequently riſes into comedy. Mrs. Inchbald's farces are *The Mogul Tale*, and *Appearances are againſt Them*.

Thoſe dramatic works of Mrs. Inchbald, which are either tranſlations or foreign dramas adapted to the Engliſh ſtage, are the following: *The Widow's Vow; Animal Magnetiſm; The Married Man; Next-Door Neighbours; The Child of Nature;* and *Lovers' Vows*.

The very pleaſing comedy, entitled *The Child of Nature*, ſeems to have been the favourite of our amiable comic writer, as ſhe ſeems to have had her eye on it when ſhe wrote her ſtory entitled Nature and Art, as alſo in the *Lovers' Vows*; for, the character of Amanthis, in the former, may be fairly ſuppoſed to have given a turn to the character of Amelia in the latter.

Lovers'

Lovers' Vows ranks in that deſcription of writing, denominated ſerious comedy, which is a conſiderable improvement on what has been called the old comedy, and has long ſince obtained a reſpectable rank in dramatic repreſentations. Of Kotzebue, the much-admired author of THE CHILD OF LOVE, and the general character of his writings, it is unneceſſary to ſay any thing here; and, of Lovers' Vows, Kotzebue's play, adapted by Mrs. Inchbald to the Engliſh ſtage, it would be equally unneceſſary to be particular. The favourable manner in which it has been received is in every one's recollection. We cannot, however, forbear noticing, that, in examining the character of Lovers' Vows, impartial criticiſm ſhould mark the diſtinction between a tranſlation and accommodating a foreign play to an Engliſh audience. For, as different languages have different idioms, ſo alſo have different nations their different manners, and different ſtages their different laws; and, if a dramatic compoſition, formed on the manners and rules of one country, is to be performed in another, the different manners of the people, and the different laws of their theatres, muſt be conſulted.

The Child of Love, by Kotzebue, having been given to Mrs. Inchbald, by the manager of Covent-Garden Theatre, to be "fitted," (I uſe her own words,) "as her opinion ſhould direct, to his ſtage," it was the part of Mrs. Inchbald not to ſuffer her reſpect for the ingenious Kotzebue to interfere with her reſpect for an Engliſh audience. She has, in her preface, pointed out the inſtances in which ſhe has departed from her original; in moſt of which, being better adapted to the Engliſh ſtage, ſhe ſeems to be perfectly juſtified. On the importance and worth

worth of ſuch alterations, readers of different taſtes will think differently.

The next department of literature, in which we are to view Mrs. Inchbald, is that of novel-writing, in which ſhe has been no leſs ſucceſsful than in dramatic compoſitions.

That ſpecies of writing, called, in France and England, novels, embraces tales or ſtories, the incidents of which are ſufficiently intereſting or uncommon, ſo as to excite ſurpriſe, and yet ſufficiently natural, and, if I may ſo ſpeak, domeſtic, to come home to the boſom. Love commonly forms the leading character of the performance. In keeping within the regions of nature and probability, it is diſtinguiſhed from romance; and, not being repreſented by actors, it is diſtinguiſhed from the drama; at the ſame time, it poſſeſſes ſome properties that belong to both.

The pleaſing ſtory entitled Nature and Art, Mrs. Inchbald has not thought proper to denominate a novel. We have ſo entitled it, merely to give it a ſpecific character; but, by whatever title the work be denominated, it is ſufficient to ſay, that the work fully anſwers its title. The ſtory is intereſting, the characters are accurately drawn, and the morality unexceptionably good. The ſatire (for, it has ſome ſatire) is juſt; the language is ſprightly, but not fantaſtic; and the reflections are ſerious, without being affected. Nature and Art is in two volumes.

The *Simple Story*, written alſo by our author, is a novel in four volumes. It is characterized by the ſame ſimplicity and ſpirit, both as to ſtyle and manner, as the former; but the characters are more various, the paſſions more intereſting, and the plot is more intricate and ſurpriſing. This ſtory is ſaid to be Mrs. Inchbald's favourite, as it has certainly

certainly been with the public. We cannot forbear obſerving, that the leading points in Mrs. Inchbald's adventurous, but honourable, life, ſeem to have furniſhed two or three leading incidents in theſe ſtories, though diverſified by numerous peculiarities and concealed with much contrivance. The ſimple ſtory has gone through ſeveral editions.

Farther than this, our memoirs do not proceed. As a writer, Mrs. I. has been ſucceſsful; and, conſidering herſelf much indebted to her bookſeller, Mr. Robinſon, ſhe always ſpeaks of him with cordiality and reſpect. The various perplexities and difficulties encountered by Mrs. Inchbald on her arrival in the metropolis; her obſtacles among managers; her diſappointments, and ſudden reverſes of fortune, her pertinent obſervations on manners and characters, (ſuch as cannot have eſcaped a mind formed for reflection, and determined on experiment,) were we even poſſeſſed of facts, would make no part of our object; nor would reflections on her religious or political ſentiments. Things of this kind will come with great propriety from the able pen of Mrs. Inchbald herſelf.

E. R.

EARL WENTWORTH FITZWILLIAM

WAS born in 1748, and ſucceeded to his titles at the age of eight years. Till his father's death, he had borne the title of Lord Milton, and he then became Earl Fitzwilliam, both in the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland. The large eſtates which fell to him on this event were, during his minority, confided to the care of the late Sir Matthew Lambe, father of the preſent LORD MELBURNE.

He was ſent, at a very early age, to Eton-ſchool, where his

his agreeable and generous diſpoſition attracted the love of his ſchool-fellows, many of whom contracted an uncommon affection for him. Among theſe may be particularly noticed Mr. Fox and the preſent Earls of CARLISLE and DORCHESTER. From Eton he was ſent to King's College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of doctor of laws. He afterwards went on his travels.

Few young noblemen ever entered life under more favourable auſpices. Inheriting a good fortune from his father, he was alſo conſidered as preſumptive heir to the large eſtates of the Marquis of Rockingham; as the friend of the Dukes of Devonſhire and Portland, and of all the great characters whoſe names adorned the liſt of patriots of thoſe days. To theſe connexions he ſoon added others, after he came of age, by his marriage with Lady Charlotte Ponſonby, daughter of the late, and ſiſter of the preſent, EARL of BESBOROUGH. This union connected him ſtill cloſer with the great Whig-families. He was married to this lady nearly ſixteen years before ſhe had a child, when ſhe brought him a ſon and heir, the preſent Lord Milton; and ſhe has ſince borne him a daughter.

From the time his Lordſhip took his ſeat in the Houſe of Peers till the preſent unhappy conteſt with the French Republic, it may be boldly affirmed, that Lord Fitzwilliam never gave a vote that could be deemed hoſtile to the liberties and intereſts of his country. He entered warmly into the patriotic party, of which his illuſtrious uncle, Lord Rockingham, was the chief; and, during the great political conteſt of 1780, 1781, and 1782, when the nation evinced its wearineſs of the war, and the country-gentlemen, finding themſelves duped by the miniſter, called loudly for a peace, Lord Fitzwilliam, by his motions in the Houſe of Peers, or by his active ſupport of the patriotic

patriotic motions of other noble lords, was greatly inſtrumental in removing the obnoxious miniſter, and the uncle of Lord Fitzwilliam (Lord Rockingham) became prime-miniſter.

The death of that reſpected nobleman cauſed a fatal ſchiſm in the adminiſtration; and, on Lord Shelburne's acceptance of the reins of government, many of the Rockingham party quitted him. Among theſe was Lord Fitzwilliam, who joined Mr. Fox; and thoſe, who have ſince been denominated the Portland party. This party, irritated at the mode taken by Lord Shelburne to wreſt the power from their hands, committed an error, which at once blaſted their reputation and their hopes: they joined the very man who had been almoſt the ſole cauſe of their country's misfortunes, and whom many of them had threatened to bring to the ſcaffold.

In Mr. Fox's plan of a new conſtitution for the ſettlements in India, Lord Fitzwilliam was included as head of the commiſſioners for India affairs; a place which would have given him as much power and influence as is now poſſeſſed by Mr. Dundas. But the boldneſs of the deſign, aided by the tricks of its opponents, defeated this intention of the miniſtry, and drove the party again from power. The diſguſt of the people was indeed ſo general againſt the meaſure and againſt the coalition-miniſtry, that Lord Fitzwilliam, who had ſucceeded to the powerful intereſts of his uncle in the county and city of York, loſt the whole of it, and his opponents have ſince carried the election almoſt entirely againſt him.

The noble Lord continued, however, to act ſteadily with his friend for many years. During the affair of the regency, he was the perſon deſigned by his party to fill the office of lord-lieutenant of the kingdom of Ireland; and

and ſo fully aſſured were they of ſucceeding to power, that it is ſaid the richeſt ſtate-liveries were made, and every other preparation which could add magnificence and ſplendour to his vice-royalty.

But an event was approaching, which was to have the moſt important effect, both public and private, in this country. It in fact ſeems deſtined to operate a total change in the public opinion of this country; and in private life to ſeparate, perhaps for ever, men who had previouſly entertained of each other the higheſt opinion, and who had thought and acted together from their earlieſt youth.

This event was the French revolution; and the man, whoſe miſchievous eloquence could effect ſo great an evil, was the late Mr. Burke. That many of the Oppoſition ſhould become the dupes of Mr. Burke's violent prejudices was not ſurpriſing; they had maintained an unavailing conteſt for power for many years, and this event afforded them a pretext for going over to the miniſtry; but it is aſtoniſhing that a nobleman of Lord Fitzwilliam's independent ſpirit and fortune ſhould ſuffer himſelf to be led away by this man, who it now appears was writing and declaiming only for a penſion!

With the public diſputes between Mr. Burke and Mr. Fox, and with the poignant diſtreſs of mind it occaſioned the latter, every one is acquainted. The defection of Lord Fitzwilliam, the friend of his childhood, and the man of whoſe political principles he is ſaid to have formed the higheſt opinion, was however to Mr. Fox a ſtill more ſevere affliction. Lord Fitzwilliam is alſo peculiarly unfortunate in his new connexions, having repeatedly avowed opinions upon French affairs almoſt as oppoſite to theirs as they are to thoſe of his old friends.

But

But let us now revert to his Lordſhip's connexions in Ireland.

The very large eſtate, which this nobleman poſſeſſes in that kingdom, ſeemed to ſtand in need of attention; and accordingly his Lordſhip turned toward it care truly paternal. Some years ſince, at a very great expenſe, he erected a large and beautiful public building in the town of Rathdrum, in the county of Wicklow, in that kingdom, for the ſale of flannels, the principal manufacture of that county. From this erection moſt eſſential benefit has been derived to thoſe manufacturers, by the facility with which they are brought to market, and by having a certain place eſtabliſhed for their ſale.

The ſelf-intereſted and illiberal landlord would be induced to impute the munificence of Lord Fitzwilliam to the ultimate hope of extending his own intereſt, in his Iriſh eſtates, by increaſed rents or increaſed certainty of their being well paid; but thoſe, who intimately knew the principles on which his Lordſhip acts, will attribute his conduct to far nobler motives. It is certain, that, ſo far from a tenant upon this eſtate ever feeling difficulty, much leſs oppreſſion, his Lordſhip has often, during inclement ſeaſons, ordered his agent to preſent ſuch of his tenants as were known to be in diſtreſſed circumſtances with a receipt for their half-year's rent; and although, for the laſt three years, his Lordſhip received little from this vaſt eſtate in Ireland, yet ſtill are thoſe perſons experiencing his bounty.

Born a Whig, and educated in principles of hereditary public virtue, his Lordſhip long adhered to thoſe principles in his parliamentary conduct. Ireland particularly is indebted to his exertions. In the hour of her diſtreſs, ſhe remembered who had been her benefactor; and her people

ple, as with one voice, called upon HIM for aſſiſtance; and even under the preſent adminiſtration, though not congenial with his own ſentiments, he conſented to take, what PUBLIC NECESSITY required, the helm of the ſiſter-kingdom. His meaſures for a moment appeaſed the ſtorm; his liberality gave confidence to all; and his CONCILIATION changed diſcord and diſtraction into cheering unanimity.

In this ſituation, his Lordſhip opened the ſeſſion of the Iriſh parliament in January, 1795, with theſe emphatic words from the throne,

"In obedience to his Majeſty's commands, I now reſort to your councils."—

Thus commenced a ſeſſion of parliament, which, until then, had not for thirteen preceding years experienced the confidence of the people, or the univerſal conviction, that all the meaſures of its government would be pre-eminently for the advantage of Ireland.

To enter minutely into a detail of what has ſince been underſtood, as *broken compacts* between his Majeſty's miniſters and this nobleman, touching his Lordſhip's adminiſtration in Ireland, would be foreign from the purpoſe of theſe pages. It ſhall ſuffice to ſay, that Lord Fitzwilliam found it impoſſible to proceed upon his plan of making Ireland happy, and of rivetting the hearts of its people to its king, without diſmiſſing from office thoſe men, whoſe ſituation was, as it were, the axis upon which the executive government revolved. All the men ſo removed were certainly obnoxious to the diſintereſted part of the people of that kingdom. They nevertheleſs aſſumed to themſelves the appellation of the *king's friends*. In their room, Lord Fitzwilliam called others to fill the ſeveral offices of the ſtate, whoſe integrity and political virtue were

unimpeached. Indeed a character for public virtue ſeemed alone to be the quality which governed all his appointments. It was in no inſtance more conſpicuous than in the nomination, which, during his ſhort adminiſtration, he made to the higheſt ſpiritual dignity in that kingdom. It was ſhortly after his Lordſhip's acceſſion to the Iriſh government that the late Dr. Robinſon, Baron Rokeby, archbiſhop of Armagh and primate of all Ireland, died. In making choice of a ſucceſſor, Lord Fitzwilliam did not reſort to the long liſt of eccleſiaſtical recommendations, however highly patronized; nor to the ſpiritual danglers who ſwarm about a lord-lieutenant's levee; but he ſought among the bench of Iriſh biſhops a character, whoſe conduct had been marked by virtue, religion, and piety. He ſelected a man, who had been, for above twenty years, eminently diſtinguiſhed in the diſcharge of all thoſe duties, and tranſlated the preſent Dr. William Newcome from the ſee of Waterford to the archbiſhopric of Armagh, who yet continues to be a charitable and pious ornament to the ſpiritual peerage.

Among the men diſmiſſed from office by Lord Fitzwilliam was the Right Hon. John Beresford, then firſt commiſſioner of the revenue, who immediately reſorted to England as one of the *king's friends*. This abſence, however important he had been conſidered in the Iriſh adminiſtration, was not found materially to impede the happy progreſs of Lord Fitzwilliam's councils. Parliament ſeconded his Lordſhip's endeavours to tranquillize the country, and promote the general good of the empire, with great unanimity. In leſs than ſix weeks after the opening of this ſeſſion of parliament, not only the ordinary ſupplies of the year were granted, but an extraordinary ſupply of 200,000l. for the purpoſe of carrying on the war.

But,

But, ſtrange to tell! this was no ſooner done than Lord Fitzwilliam was recalled, and Mr. Beresford re-inſtated in his official and confidential ſituations.

So highly venerated was Lord Fitzwilliam during his lieutenancy in Ireland, that a panic, more eaſy to be conceived than expreſſed, pervaded the whole kingdom, but more particularly the city of Dublin, upon the news of his Lordſhip's recall being made public. The nation again ſeemed to ſink into deſpondency. The houſes, ſhops, &c. in every ſtreet through which he paſſed, were all ſhut upon the memorable day on which he ſailed for England, and at noon-day a ſolemn ſilence and melancholy mourning marked the metropolis, and ſeemed to indicate the ſad cataſtrophe, which has ſince befallen that ill-fated country.

It was impoſſible but ſuch marks of national gratitude, ſorrow, and diſappointment, muſt have greatly affected his Lordſhip; and it is equally true, that in this important period of his life, when he indulged in the fond hope of making millions happy, his mortification only aroſe from his diſappointment in being denied the privilege of beſtowing that boon.

During the ſhort time Lord Fitzwilliam continued in the lieutenancy of Ireland, Dublin-caſtle exhibited a ſplendour which had never before been diſplayed in that kingdom. The magnificence of all his appointments, while they beſpoke the dignity of the proprietor, furniſhed the means of induſtry and of happineſs to thouſands.

The laudable example held out at the Iriſh court by Lord and Lady Fitzwilliam, operated by attracting thither the truly good, amiable, and virtuous part of the nation; in the ſame proportion that the vicious, the profligate, and the abandoned, fled from its luſtre.

Lord

Lord Fitzwilliam, upon his return to England, took occaſion to ſtate ſome of the leading features of his ſhort-lived adminiſtration in Ireland, in two letters to his old friend Lord Carliſle; which letters were afterwards publiſhed. In theſe, his Lordſhip enters pretty full into the queſtion, what privileges were agreed upon to be extended to the Roman Catholics of Ireland; he proves the wiſhes of the Britiſh cabinet to have been to keep back the agitation of that queſtion.

Mr. Beresford, who had remained all this time in England, contrived to bring Lord Fitzwilliam to an *éclairciſſement*, which was to be determined as an affair of honour. Lord F. gave Mr. B. a meeting in Hyde-park; but, the matter having by ſome means tranſpired, a ſtop was put to any farther proceedings in that way.

Lord Fitzwilliam is a ſtrenuous advocate in the Houſe of Peers for the proſecution of the preſent war; and, when Lord Malmeſbury was ſent by miniſters, in the year 1796, to negociate a peace with the French directory at Paris, Lord Fitzwilliam entered his ſingle proteſt upon the journals of the Houſe of Lords againſt the meaſure, in which he ſtated at great length his reaſons and objections.

At the opening of the ſeſſion of parliament in 1797, his Lordſhip, in terms of the ſtrongeſt reprobation, delivered his ſentiments upon the ſeparate treaty of peace juſt then entered into between the Emperor of Germany and the French Republic; a treaty, which he then prognoſticated would not long exiſt; and remarked to miniſters of how little avail had been their previous ſubſidies to a potentate, whom his Lordſhip called "*a Jacobin emperor.*"

A few months after, and in the ſame ſeſſion of parliament, when Lord Moira brought forward the perilous ſituation

tuation of Ireland, and truly ſtated the ſmothered flame then kindling, which has ſince burſt forth into ſuch a blaze of terror, Lord Fitzwilliam warmly coincided with his Lordſhip, and ſtrenuouſly recommended meaſures of conciliation inſtead of thoſe of coercion and of torture. He adviſed rather to bring back the affections of the Iriſh people, and once more to ſend the dove to the throne, which might perhaps return with the olive, than try the event of harſh meaſures with an impatient people. This advice was not attended to; it was rejected by the miniſter, and reprobated by the leading men in Ireland, who with a giddy hardineſs of heart ſpurned every plan of mildneſs, without adverting to the probable conſequence of ſuch conduct. The conſequence which actually followed was, that Ireland ruſhed into open rebellion; and it was thought adviſable to have recourſe to a ſyſtem of ſtill more ſevere coercion, ſuch indeed as was never before heard of in the annals of the Britiſh empire. What has followed needs not to be repeated.

By the junction of the Fitzwilliam and Rockingham eſtates, now veſted in his Lordſhip, he ſends five members into the Houſe of Commons; viz. one for Higham-Ferrars, two for Malton, and two for Peterborough; none of which were ever bartered by him or any of his Lordſhip's illuſtrious anceſtors.

The diſmiſſion of Lord Fitzwilliam from the vice-royalty of Ireland was evidently ſuch as would have rouſed moſt men to oppoſition, from a conviction of the dangerous meaſure adopted by the miniſtry; but how much were the public ſurpriſed to ſee his Lordſhip ſtill with the miniſtry, and ſhewing a difference of opinion from them chiefly in the affairs of Ireland.

But a ſubſequent tranſaction aſtoniſhed the public, and the noble Lord's friends, much more.

Early

Early in the year 1798, the conduct of the Duke of Norfolk at a tavern, in the celebration of the anniverſary of Mr. Fox's firſt election for Weſtminſter, gave great offence to miniſters; inſomuch that his Grace was diſmiſſed from the lieutenancy of the Weſt Riding of Yorkſhire, &c. and the command of the firſt Weſt York regiment of militia.

The popularity of the Duke of Norfolk, both as lord-lieutenant of that county and colonel of their firſt regiment, was ſuch as rendered any ſubſtitute whom miniſters might appoint likely to be very unpalatable. Lord Fitzwilliam, they well knew, could not be objected to, either by the county or the regiment; they alſo knew *they* could not venture to propoſe an honour to that nobleman without the certainty of its being ſpurned at with diſdain, as coming from men, whom his Lordſhip had ſo recently reprobated. There remained but one way to obtain Lord Fitzwilliam's acceptance of thoſe honours; and, at the immediate requeſt of his Majeſty, he received his commiſſion from his ſovereign's hands.

The conduct of Lord Fitzwilliam towards this regiment is conſiſtent with the general tenor of his life. The firſt care he took was to promote all thoſe officers who had been placed in the regiment by the Duke of Norfolk, before he preſented any of his own friends with commiſſions.

When his Lordſhip is with the regiment, he conſtantly attends their meſs; and, laying aſide all the ſplendour of his rank and his uſual attendants, he appears there with no more oſtentatious ſhew than the youngeſt enſign of the corps.

The health, the ſituation, and the comforts, of the privates and their families, are his Lordſhip's peculiar

care; and his ardent wiſh and conſtant deſire ſeem to be, that nothing ſhall be ſpared to make the regiment complete and happy.

It is well known, his Lordſhip beholds with a jealous eye any infringement upon the eſtabliſhed conſtitution of Great Britain. Such he conceives the ſending the national militia out of the kingdom. Such he conceives the ſyſtem of torture lately introduced into Ireland. And, when the offer of his regiment to ſerve in that kingdom was officially delivered by his Lordſhip, he did not fail expreſsly to ſtate, that it was by no means to be underſtood he was to accompany them thither.

Notwithſtanding which, a little after the arrival of Lord Cornwallis in Ireland, viz. in September, 1798, when the French made a deſcent upon that kingdom, Lord Fitzwilliam immediately repaired there for purpoſes, which, it has been rumoured, in caſe of emergency, were to be of a very important and confidential nature, delegated from the higheſt authority.

His Lordſhip, in being an advocate for the proſecution of the preſent war, is no leſs a contributor to the expenſes of carrying it on; as the ſplendour in which he lives in London and in Yorkſhire, but more particularly at Milton-Abbey in Northamptonſhire, is not equalled by any nobleman in Great Britain.

But it is not only by the taxes, which from this ſtyle of living he muſt pay, that he contributes to the expences of the ſtate; another inſtance lately occurred in the Iriſh parliament, which ſtill farther evinces, in a moſt uncommon degree, the promptitude with which he aſſiſts to defray the expenſe of the country. A bill was paſſed there for appropriating a large ſum of money to make good the loſſes ſuſtained by ſuffering loyaliſts, during the late rebellion

lion in that kingdom; of which deſcription his Lordſhip was by far the moſt prominent individual; yet, when the injured claimants preſented themſelves, Sir W. G. Newcomen, a Dublin banker and M. P. roſe in his place, and ſtated, that he had authority from Lord Fitzwilliam to decline receiving any compenſation from government or the nation under that unhappy event.

His Lordſhip has been uniformly an advocate for the extenſion of all municipal rights to the perſons profeſſing the Roman Catholic religion. He conceives the doctrine of the real preſence ſhould be no bar to their emancipation. That, in this enlightened age, for miniſters to aſſume a dictation upon the ſubject of religion, was to aſſume a power, which is exceſs of blaſphemy as well as of blindneſs.

His liberality is unbounded. The number of private charities, which he has been in the habit of diſpenſing for the laſt twenty years; and the number of liberal donations, the majority of which has been diſtributed with ſuch nice delicacy that the perſons relieved (many of whom much above the common level) are ignorant to this hour of the bounteous donor; are equalled by few indeed among the affluent even of this alms-giving age.

Lord Fitzwilliam, now in his fifty-firſt year, is tall and ſlender; of countenance and manner engaging, perſuaſive, and attractive. He delights a little in the ſports of the turf; but his principal hours of enjoyment are occupied in the delights of the chaſe; exhibiting, in the midſt of a ſplendid circle, the keenneſs of a ſportſman combined with the magnificence of a prince.

The noble Lord has erected on his eſtate in Yorkſhire a beacon, deſigned as a mauſoleum to the memory of his uncle, the late ever-to-be-lamented Marquis of Rocking-

ham. We adviſe his Lordſhip often to contemplate this work, and to reflect upon the virtues and the principles of the man he has thus intended to honour.

W. Y.

MR. GODWIN.

MR. WILLIAM GODWIN is deſcended from a family of diſſenters. His father, whoſe Chriſtian name was John, was educated at the diſſenters' college at Northampton, under the celebrated Dr. Doddridge; and was, in the concluding part of his life, miniſter of a congregation at Gueſtwick, a village in Norfolk. His attainments are ſaid not to have exceeded what is uſual among perſons of his ſituation. He lived, however, with the character of a very honeſt man.

Mr. Edward Godwin, the grandfather of Mr. Godwin, was the cotemporary of Watts, Bradbury, Barker, and Neale, eminent miniſters in the beginning of this century, with whom he was intimately connected. He reſided in London, where he had a large congregation, moſt of whom were of the richer claſs among the diſſenters. It is impoſſible for us to ſay what was the extent of his talents or learning; but his name ſtood very high. It was uſual for the eminent writers among his friends to conſult him on their productions; and a ſtory is told of him, which, if true, and there ſeems to be no reaſon to queſtion it, is a proof that he was regarded as a man of taſte as well as learning. The ſtory is the following:—Robert Blair, the author of a poem entitled the GRAVE, reſiding in a remote part of Scotland, committed the care of publiſhing that poem to Mr. Edward Godwin, at the ſame time conſulting him as a critic. The poem, as every one knows, acquired

quired great celebrity; and the author, coming to town, ſome time afterward, embraced his friend, not only thanking him for his care in the publication, but acknowledging he was indebted, for the greateſt part of his ſucceſs, to his critic's advice and aid.

Mr. Godwin received the earlieſt part of his education from a ſchool-maſter in his father's neighbourhood. To diſcover what accidents have aſſiſted in forming the habits of a great mind is one of the moſt beneficial purpoſes of biography. Mr. Godwin's firſt maſter ſeems to deſerve a portion of the praiſe that belongs to thoſe who have ſenſibility to perceive talents in their germ, and generoſity to contribute to their growth with patient culture. He was a man above the ordinary rate of perſons of his employment in ſo obſcure a ſpot as that in which he kept his ſchool; and, having a good deal of penetration, and ſtill more enthuſiaſm and benevolence, he ſoon openly declared that young Godwin was ſuch a child as had never come under his obſervation before.

From this maſter, with whom it is probable Mr. Godwin acquired ſomething better than the mere rudiments of ſuch branches of learning as were taught in his ſchool, he was ſent to Norwich to purſue his ſtudies under a private tutor; and, from Norwich, was removed to the Diſſenters' College, at Hoxton, near London, where he remained five years under the tuition of Dr. Kippis, editor of the New Biographia Britannica, and Dr. Rees, editor of Chambers's Cyclopedia. The ordinary courſe of ſtudies at Hoxton included the claſſics, Hebrew, logic, ethic, divinity, rhetoric, the mathematics, natural philoſophy, and pneumatology.

Of Mr. Godwin's progreſs at the college little is known, and therefore it is probable there was nothing uncommon in it. He is ſaid to have had a very ſmall party there, by whom he was not only extremely beloved, but conſidered

as infinitely ſuperior to his fellow-ſtudents; and theſe are ſaid to have avenged themſelves by ridiculing him and his little faction.

It was uſual for the young men at Hoxton, who were deſigned for miniſters of the diſſenting-church, to preach in London and its vicinity during the laſt year of their abode at the college. Mr. Godwin followed the practice; but it does not appear that he excelled his fellow-ſtudents. In 1778, he entered regularly on the office of a diſſenting-miniſter, the functions of which he continued to diſcharge for the four years immediately ſucceeding, chiefly at Stowmarket, in Suffolk, where he had a congregation.

It well deſerves to be noticed, that Mr. Godwin adopted the opinions of the Calviniſts, although his teachers at Hoxton held the doctrine of Arminius. This, probably, was among the firſt fruits of that ſpirit of inveſtigation that eminently marks his character. In the ſcheme of Calviniſm, there is much to attract a religious mind having the intrepidity to purſue an argument through all its conſequences.

In 1782, he removed to London, with the reſolution of truſting to literature for the means of his future ſubſiſtence. It is not to be expected, that we have been able to trace the proceſs of Mr. Godwin's mind from the time of his aſſuming the office of a diſſenting-miniſter to his laying it down. The more minute and curious parts can be known, with ſuch accuracy as will juſtify the motives that make an inveſtigation of that nature at all uſeful, only to himſelf, and muſt, in part, have eſcaped even his recollection; but Mr. Godwin, having early acquired the habit of cloſe obſervation and profound reſearch, is, no doubt, acquainted with many of the more ſubtle, as well as the palpable, operations of a change in opinions and feelings, perhaps without example for its extent; and it is *his duty*, as it is that of every man in his circumſtances,

to

to furniſh the world with a hiſtory ſo important in the ſtudy of human nature. We have beforeus, however, a prodigy in its outward appearances. We find Mr. Godwin rigidly orthodox, till about the year 1783; and, in 1792, a writer, whoſe freedom of inquiry and fearleſſneſs of deduction gave alarm not only to orthodoxy in religion, but to bigotry of every ſpecies. All that we have been able to diſcover, beyond that outſide, is the very early exiſtence in his character of a love of knowledge. Throughout the whole of his inquiries, firſt in religion, and afterward in ethics, he never was to be ſatisfied till he had penetrated beyond the veil that at once bounds the diſcuſſions of the hypocrite and the perceptions of the ignorant.

With ſuch a temper, ſomething was to be expected from Mr. Godwin when he dedicated himſelf wholly to literature, and all his habits were of a nature to favour his purſuit. He was ſtudious, patient, indefatigable, and extremely moderate in his expenditure. He ſoon perceived he could earn his bread with little labour; and, what was infinitely important to the completeneſs of his ſucceſs, without any ſacrifice of his taſte and underſtanding to the multitude. Nor did he care how little more than bread he earned. To excel in his art was what he more immediately deſired; and to be the ſucceſsful advocate of truth, his ultimate and greateſt ambition. Bearing theſe noble motives in his boſom, he was not impatient to appear before the public as a writer; and we are not to be ſurpriſed, that, for more than nine years after literature was his occupation, he was an obſcure individual, except where accident had thrown him into the way of men who could diſtinguiſh talents while they were employed in collecting the materials of future ſucceſs.

Mr. Godwin began his literary life in 1782; and it was not till 1792, or rather the beginning of 1793, that Political Juſtice was publiſhed. He had no reaſon to repent

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of the ſevere diſcipline he had impoſed on himſelf. Within a few weeks of the appearance of that work, his immediate object, the acquiſition of fame and its conſequent power in the application of his talents, was obtained. He was not merely known to the public, but was ranked at once among men of the higheſt genius and attainments.

The principles contained in Political Juſtice had all the appearances and many of the effects of ſelf-evident axioms. To underſtand the terms, and adopt the propoſitions of the work, were ſo nearly inſeparable, that it was a fact that ſome very great and learned men, in expreſſing an abhorrence of its doctrines, could not conceal the ſecret that their deteſtation of Political Juſtice was chiefly occaſioned by its ſubtlety in eluding their zeal to detect the radical error, which, from certain propoſitions they held to be infallible, they were ſincerely perſuaded lay ſomewhere in the work. Political Juſtice at once tortured their feelings and baffled their reaſon. They were in the ſituation that fanatics in religion aſcribe to ſome of their converts, believing and denying, and ready, in the bitterneſs of their hearts, to curſe the queſtion for intruding itſelf upon them. But, while there was this ludicrous ſtruggle in the minds of ſome of the readers of Political Juſtice, its terms were in reality ſo ſimple and intelligible, that the work, although diſcuſſing its topics at great length and in very minute detail, was ſcarcely publiſhed when it was every where the theme of popular converſation and praiſe. Perhaps no work of equal bulk ever had ſuch a number of readers; and certainly no book of ſuch profound inquiry ever made ſo many proſelytes in an equal ſpace of time. Pirated editions were publiſhed in Ireland and Scotland; and people of the lower claſs were the purchaſers. In many places, perhaps ſome hundreds in England

land and Scotland, copies were bought by ſubſcription, and read aloud in meetings of the ſubſcribers.

Neither the favour Political Juſtice obtained with the populace; nor the ſtrange puzzle it occaſioned among ſome of the learned, are ſubjects of aſtoniſhment to him who conſiders the nature of the work. The fundamental propoſition in Political Juſtice is, *that virtue conſiſts in producing the happineſs of ſociety.* To deny that ſtatement is to abandon all the pretenſions on which men found their claim to reſpect for their moral conduct. The ſincere man, therefore, embraces the propoſition with his whole heart; he has no need to run to a maſter to know its meaning or to inquire if it is congenial with his feelings: to him it is real, if viſionary to all the world beſide. Mean time, the hypocrite is entrapped, if he ventures to open his mouth; for, he muſt acknowledge the truth of Mr. Godwin's ſtatement, or formally publiſh a recantation of all the profeſſions he has till that moment made of the motives of his public or ſocial actions.

Mr. Godwin's ſcheme of morals is exhibited with ſuch diſtinctneſs in his work, that we find no difficulty in giving our readers its entire outline in a few words.—*Virtue conſiſts in producing the happineſs of ſociety, and is the individual intereſt and the general perfection of man: he is a being governed by intellectual motives: to inform his mind on every ſubject, to the utmoſt extent of human perception, would be to give him motives irreſiſtibly inclining him to virtue, as defined above: political freedom is an eſſential means to the cultivation of his mind in the greateſt degree; and political freedom and knowledge, ſucceſſively the cauſe and effect of each other, would carry him on indefinitely in improvement of mind and happineſs of condition: by the unreſtrained cultivation of knowledge, and univerſal political freedom, it is poſſible to make every individual happy, and happy in a higher degree than the moſt fortunate is at preſent.*

It is not poſſible for us, in the limits of this ſketch of Mr. Godwin's life, to examine the merits of the reſpective arguments of that writer and his opponents But one remark is too important to this great queſtion to be omitted. Mr. Godwin's adverſaries were inconſiſtent in their objections: they repreſented him, in one and the ſame picture, as a viſionary whoſe ſchemes were too grand to be practiſed, from the inherent defects of human nature, and as a ſyſtematical advocate of profligacy and vice. We are inclined to treat, with a contempt of his underſtanding, the perſon who ſeriouſly entertains the latter of theſe objections. It would be, indeed, to poſſeſs a bold and ardent temper, if we were implicitly to believe that men in general will ever anſwer all the claims that Mr. Godwin's ſyſtem makes upon them of integrity, fortitude, and benevolence. But we think it may be aſſerted, without a probability of contradiction from thoſe whoſe real object is the happineſs of mankind, that it is impracticable to aſcend into the region of Mr. Godwin's ſpeculations without improvement of the heart and enlargement of the underſtanding, and without carrying along with us into the world, we are obliged to act in, ſomething to purify our conduct, and ameliorate our condition.

In 1794, appeared Mr. Godwin's novel of Caleb Williams. His former production had ſo completely eſtabliſhed his reputation for genius, that it can hardly be ſaid this novel increaſed his fame. It proved the verſatility of his powers; but the creative faculties, the richneſs, eloquence, and paſſion, diſplayed in Political Juſtice, were not excelled in Caleb Williams, although the latter was a form in which they were more obvious to the vulgar. Perhaps a work on ethics is never ſufficient of itſelf to enſure the undiminiſhed fame of a writer. Inveſtigations of that kind, even when they produce facts, are in the nature of diſcove-

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ries in arts, which are rendered insignificant by farther improvements in the same art. A work of imagination, if conducted on the principles of human actions and enlivened by copiousness of invention, is eternal in its reputation. Mr. Godwin's Caleb Williams, therefore, gave permanency, rather than accession of quantity, to his fame.

In October, 1794, Mr. Godwin wrote a pamphlet entitled Cursory Strictures on the Charge delivered by Lord Chief-Justice Eyre to the Grand Jury on the 2d of October, 1794. In the charge which preceded the memorable state-trials of that year, certain doctrines were broached relative to the crime of high-treason, on the impression of which on the public mind probably depended the lives of the persons accused. The temper and circumstances of the times gave these doctrines such popularity, that almost instantaneously it was a current opinion that the accused were guilty, and would be convicted. Mr. Godwin saw the fallacy and danger of the reasoning in the charge; and, having employed a friend to write to his dictating, within eight-and-forty hours, produced his Cursory Strictures.—They first appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*, and thence were copied into other papers; and were, at the same time, sent to the press in the form of a pamphlet. On the day the pamphlet was published, the bookseller received an intimation that he would be prosecuted if he sold another copy. He stopped the sale; and another publisher was of course to be sought. But the business of the Cursory Strictures was already completed.—The subtle mischiefs of the charge were exhibited in the Strictures with their natural undisguised deformity and coarseness. The public tide was turned; and, instead of the guilt and conviction of the accused, nothing was heard of, in the streets and places of resort, but the flagrancy of the offences of the charge.

Cursory

Curſory ſtrictures afford a fine example of that ſpecies of writing. The author's vehement indignation, when he preſents the charge to the public view ſtript of its cunning, is a beautiful contraſt to his cool and ſteady temper in removing its artful coverings.

In 1795, Mr. Godwin publiſhed an edition of Political Juſtice, in 8vo. There is, in this edition, ſomething to endear him to every generous mind, intent only on the diſcovery of truth. In reviſing the opinions of that book, in the interval between the firſt and ſecond edition, he thought ſome were erroneous; and, with the candour becoming the value of the inquiry, he availed himſelf of the ſecond edition to inform his readers of the miſtakes. The principal difference in the two editions will be found in the treating of the four following topics: *Property; political change; marriage; and ſincerity.*

Mr. Godwin, in entertaining that great and comprehenſive principle, *that there is no portion of our time or property which virtue does not inflexibly apply to ſome definite uſe*, ſtated, in the firſt edition, as a natural reſult, that the exiſtence of property in the hands of individuals, with the rights and powers aſcribed to it by the law, is an error in politics. In the ſecond edition, he qualifies the ſtatement by acknowledging that the ſeveral members of ſociety ought to be allowed a diſcretion in the uſe of the property they earn; and that, although it is ſtill true that it is their duty to employ every particle of property according to ſome mode dictated by the occaſion, and not by their caprice, it is inconſiſtent with political liberty to ſuperintend and direct the application through the medium of political regulations.

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In the firſt edition, Mr. Godwin, in ſpeaking of *political change*, ſeems to have betrayed an impatience for the hour of its arrival; with the condition, conſtantly annexed, however, of its being forwarded only by opinion, unaſſiſted with force. In the ſecond edition, he moſt explicitly and ſtrenuouſly maintains that there exiſts, in the nature of things, a neceſſity for a ſlow as well as gradual change.

In urging his objections to *marriage*, as it exiſts at preſent, Mr. Godwin had left it as a queſtion he did not decide, whether the promiſcuous intercourſe of the ſexes, or the ſelection of an individual of one ſex by an individual of the other, would be the reſult of his ſyſtem; but, in the ſecond edition, he decides the queſtion diſtinctly in favour of the latter.

Sincerity, Mr. Godwin, in the firſt edition, inſiſted upon as a quality never to be violated, even in any extreme caſe; and, in the ſecond edition, he qualifies this ſtatement by the rule of utility, which ſometimes, he admits, may demand a ſacrifice of ſincerity.

Beſide theſe changes in Mr. Godwin's opinions, which are certainly important to his view of the reſult of his ſcheme in ſociety, there are many others of conſiderably leſs effect. We have nothing at preſent to do with the truth or error of Mr. Godwin's opinions. But it is a queſtion material to this ſketch of his character, how far his authority, as a moraliſt, ought to be affected by theſe alterations? And this queſtion depends upon the reſolution of a previous one, how far the alterations in Political Juſtice are deſtructive of the vital principles of the book as firſt deſcribed by the author? If his ſcheme remains entire in one ſtatement and the other, and the alterations exhibit no more

more than improvement in ſubordinate parts, making the whole and even its outline ſtronger than before, then it will be admitted that Mr. Godwin's candour, in giving the actual ſtate of his mind to his reader, is not the only motive of reliance on him, but that his authority is increaſed by his activity and penetration in the detection of his own erroneous deductions.

In 1796, Mr. Godwin publiſhed a volume of miſcellaneous eſſays under the title of The Inquirer. This book aſſumes a very modeſt appearance, affecting to contain nothing more than hints on important ſubjects. But theſe are ſtrongly conceived, and have an original caſt; and the work affords one more proof of the writer's unquenchable paſſion for the diſcovery of truth.

In 1797, a third edition of Political Juſtice was publiſhed. A ſecond and third edition of Caleb Williams were publiſhed in 1795 and 1797.

There is but one publication more from Mr. Godwin's pen that we have to notice, and that is connected with a ſtory of peculiar intereſt. We allude to the Memoirs of Mrs. Godwin's Life. The ſtory connected with that work deſerves to be told at length, if it could come within our limits. It exhibited Mr. Godwin in that difficult moment for him when the lofty doctrines he had taught made heavy claims on his own practice. He had loudly proclaimed his objections to marriage, and his hatred of that ſtate was indeed inveterate enough. The time came, when he was to ſubject the woman of his choice to unmerited obloquy, or comply with forms he could not approve. The ſituation was trying. But Mr. Godwin conceived the production of happineſs to be the true criterion of morality; and he did not heſitate to chooſe, where unlimited miſchiefs were to be

be incurred on one hand, and a definite and comparatively ſmall evil endured on the other.

Mr. Godwin was married to Mrs. Wolſtonecraft in 1797. He had ſlightly known that moſt celebrated and moſt injured woman before her reſidence in France. After her return, accident brought him into her company. He learnt her ſorrowful ſituation at that period; and, with a zeal, the vulgar are accuſtomed to call romantic, attached himſelf to the deſign of reſtoring a noble mind to itſelf and ſociety. The elevated talents, and perhaps ſtill more elevated temper, of Mrs. Wolſtonecraft, were almoſt univerſally known in the world; and the ſweeteſt of the feminine attractions were not leſs the qualities of this extraordinary woman than the grandeur of mind ſo generally acknowledged in her. She was one of thoſe, that the powers of nature and the cultivation of ſociety ſometimes unite to form, for whom every ſenſible and poliſhed mind almoſt loſes its veneration in the exceſs of its love.

The manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Godwin lived together may be preſented as a model for conjugal life. Mr. Godwin's former diſlike of marriage was occaſioned chiefly by the tyranny it almoſt always includes. It is not ſurpriſing, therefore, that his enlightened views of that intercourſe ſhould enable him to ſhun that rock. But it is not by the mere abſence of prominent miſchiefs that we can deſcribe Mr. Godwin's roof while his wife lived. To all that is dignified in the delicate relation of married perſons, we muſt add thoſe innumerable requiſites of domeſtic peace that are found in cheerfulneſs, good-will, and mutual deference to the adverſe opinions that, in two minds of great vigour, muſt almoſt neceſſarily exiſt. One of the paſſions that has the moſt powerful hold on Mr. Godwin's mind is, a fondneſs for converſation with perſons of ſuperior talents.

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He has always aſſerted it to be the moſt fertile cauſe of intellectual improvement, when rich and congenial ſouls chance to meet. We ſhall not, therefore, be very much in danger of exaggerating, if we endeavour to form a picture of the perfection to which he now carried this favourite ſcheme of pleaſure and improvement. So many acceſſory temptations as converſation offered him, in his intercourſe with Mrs. Godwin, would not fail to bring its cultivation, in this inſtance, to a very unuſual degree of excellence.

Mrs. Godwin died in September, 1797. In the ſcenes that belong to that afflicting period, Mr. Godwin was ſtill to be exhibited in an unexpected light to thoſe who were accuſtomed to regard him as a hard unfeeling theoriſt. He watched over the means attempted for her recovery with a fortitude and preſence of mind that recalled to his friends the recollection of the philoſopher they had been uſed to contemplate in his writings; but, when hope was gone, he abandoned himſelf to ſorrow that ſeemed to aſſimilate him with the weakeſt of mankind: and, when Mrs. Godwin was no more, he admitted of no conſolation, in the firſt moments of his anguiſh, but that of paying a ſuperſtitious reſpect to her remains.

It was in January, 1798, that Mr. Godwin publiſhed his Memoirs of the Life of Mrs. Godwin. In May, of the ſame year, a ſecond edition of that work appeared. A painful choice ſeems to preſent itſelf to every ingenuous perſon who compoſes memoirs of himſelf, or of any one ſo nearly connected with himſelf as in the preſent inſtance. He muſt either expoſe himſelf with diſadvantage to the illiberal and malicious temper that exiſts in the world, or violate the honour and integrity of his feelings. Yet, that the heart ſhould be known in all its windings, is an object of infinite importance to him who would benefit the human race. Mr. Godwin did not prefer a cowardly ſilence, nor treachery to the public, having choſen to write. Perhaps

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ſuch works as the Memoirs of Mrs. Godwin's Life, and Rouſſeau's Confeſſions, will ever diſgrace their writers with the meaner ſpirits of the world; but, then, it is to be remembered, that this herd neither confers, nor can take away, fame.

Of Mr. Godwin's character, both as a man and a writer, the chief features are obvious in this ſlight ſketch of his life. His writings diſplay greatneſs of talent; and his life, virtue practiſed on principles ſuppoſed to be too refined to be applicable to ordinary affairs. Without laying claim to the power of raiſing his conduct to the elevation of his doctrines, which he does not hold to be neceſſary to their ſolidity, he perhaps is foremoſt among thoſe who approach that rule, of making the happineſs of ſociety the object of moral conduct. And, if ſociety never reaches that ſtate of improvement in which that fine maxim is the general law, Mr. Godwin has, nevertheleſs, this recompenſe for his labours,—that there will always be a virtuous claſs to whom his ſpeculations will have afforded new motives for the exertion of their humanity, to alleviate at leaſt the miſeries to which men, on that ſuppoſition, are unhappily doomed.

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THE REV. MR. GRAVES.

(OF CLAVERTON.)

IT is now nearly forty years ſince the public were firſt acquainted with the ſubject of this memoir, as the intimate friend and correſpondent of the late Mr. Shenſtone, of the Leaſowes. From that period, he has grown into more extenſive notice, in the literary world, as the editor and reputed *author* of ſeveral amuſing publications which have been well received by the public.

Mr. Graves is a younger ſon of the late Richard Graves, Eſq. of Mickleton, in the northern extremity of the county of Glouceſter, where he was born in the year 1715. His father was eſteemed a very learned man, and a good antiquary, being honoured with the appellation of "Graveſius Noſter" by Mr. Thomas Hearn, the Oxford antiquary; and Mr. Ballard, who wrote the lives of "The Learned Ladies," ſpeaks highly of him, in a manuſcript letter,* preſerved in the Bodleian Library, as "a gentleman endowed with every good quality, admirably ſkilled in the Roman and Britiſh antiquities, an excellent hiſtorian, antiquary, and medaliſt;" and adds, "that he had made vaſt collections towards the hiſtory and antiquities of that part of the vale of Eveſham, where moſt of his eſtates lie, which he had collected, at great pains and expenſe, from Doomſday-Book and from the manuſcripts and records in the Tower and divers other places. Thoſe papers, after his death, came into the hands of his friend, James Weſt, Eſq. late preſident of the Royal Society, at whoſe deceaſe they were ſold, in 1772, to the Earl of Shelburne." He died in September, 1729, and has an elegant epitaph, in the church at Mickleton, written by his friend Mr. Weſt.†

The Rev. Richard Graves, the ſubject of this article, received the firſt part of his claſſical education under a Mr. Smith, the curate of the pariſh, who, probably, to pleaſe his father, made him read Heſiod and Homer at twelve years of age, and at whoſe houſe he reckoned, among his ſchool-fellows, Mr. Howard Haſtings, the father of the celebrated governor-general of Bengal.

At about the age of thirteen, Mr. Graves was ſent to Abingdon, in Berkſhire, then a public ſchool; thence, when

* See Dr. Naſh's Hiſtory of Worceſterſhire, vol. i. p. 199.

† Mr. James Weſt, Mr. Graves, and a few more, contributed greatly to bring the ſtudy of the Saxon and Engliſh antiquities into vogue at that period.

when he was turned of ſixteen, he was choſen ſcholar of Pembroke-College in Oxford.

Soon after he went to reſide at college, he was invited to a ſmall and ſober party of young men, who amuſed themſelves in an evening in reading Greek, and drinking water.* Here he continued ſix months; and they read over Epictetus, Theophraſtus's Characters, Phalaris's Epiſtles, and ſuch other Greek authors as are ſeldom read at ſchool. After ſhifting from one party or ſet of company to another, in which colleges are uſually divided, Mr. Graves became attached to Mr. Shenſtone and a Mr. Anthony Whiſtler, an ingenious young gentleman of a good family and genteel fortune in Oxfordſhire. Theſe three met almoſt every evening; and, as he ſays, read plays and poetry, Spectators and Tattlers, and other works of eaſy digeſtion, and "ſipped Florence wine the whole ſummer."‡

But, as a ſcholarſhip of Pembroke afforded a very ſmall ſupply towards the expenſe of an univerſity-education, Mr. Graves tried his fortune at All-Souls' College, where he was elected fellow, in 1736, by the intereſt chiefly of Mr. Wood, of Littleton, Middleſex, then likewiſe a fellow of the college; and who, laſt year, celebrated his *ninetieth birth-day*, but is ſince dead.

Here he became particularly intimate with Sir William Blackſtone,† who followed him, within two or three years, from the ſame college.

* At the head of this party was Dr. Dumareſque, afterward chaplain to the factory at Peterſburgh, and now, in his eighty-eighth year, ſettled on a living in Somerſetſhire.

‡ See "Recollections," printed for Dodſley.

† Perhaps none of the friends or biographers of Sir William was better qualified to ſpeak juſtly and accurately of his comprehenſive genius than Mr. Graves, or is better able to offer more honourable teſtimony to the erudition, genius, and judgment, of this great man in every branch of ſcience as well as the law. The familiar friendſhip, indeed, which ſubſiſted

Soon after Mr. Graves was choſen at All-Souls, inſtead of purſuing his theological ſtudies, as he had intended, he conceived the idea of ſtudying phyſic, which he thought a more *genteel* profeſſion; and, as preparatory to that ſtudy, went through two courſes of anatomy, in London, with that celebrated anatomiſt Dr. Nichols. But, at the end of the ſecond courſe, he was attacked by a nervous fever which had been ſome time coming upon him. After the lecture, the Doctor took him into his ſtudy, and read to him his caſe in Hoffman. "There, (ſays he,) now go to bed, and *ſweat* there theſe ſix weeks."—This he literally did; but, in ſpite of aſſafœtida volus, "and all the *cordial* medicines of the ſhops," nature was ſo far exhauſted, that, if another phyſician, who was called in, had not ordered him a glaſs of ſack every day and a toaſt, he could not have ſurvived the experiment.

This ſevere diſcipline, the effects of which he never thoroughly recovered, left him in ſo languid a ſtate, that he thought fit to relinquiſh the medical line, and reſume the ſtudy of divinity; and, in 1740, took orders. Mr. Graves's elder brother was acquainted, at the Temple, with Mr. Fitzherbert, the father of the late Sir William Fitzherbert, and of Lord St. Helen's who was going to ſettle on his eſtate at Tiſſington, in Derbyſhire; and, having a donative in his gift, wiſhed to have a clergyman with him in the houſe as a companion: of this offer Mr. Graves gladly accepted.

As Mr. Fitzherbert was a man of the moſt amiable manners, Mr. Graves had an opportunity of enjoying the higheſt pleaſures of ſociety, in his houſe, where Mr. Charles Pratt (afterwards Lord Camden) and many other young men of diſtinguiſhed rank and abilities were frequent viſitors.

When

ſiſted from the earlieſt period of their lives, to the death of that illuſtrious judge, made him competent to ſpeak of every uſeful regulation, in which he was engaged, in every department of the college and the univerſity.

When Mr. Graves had been about three years in Derbyſhire, he was coming, by turn, into office in the college-and, therefore, wiſhed to get a curacy nearer to Oxford. But, before he left his ſituation with Mr. Fitzherbert, he went with Mr. Seward (the father of Miſs Anna Seward and the publiſher of Beaumont and Fletcher) to make the tour of the north; and, while at Scarborough, walking in the ſtreet, he was accoſted by an old clergyman, with an immenſe beaver and a long cravat, who, after ſurveying him with great attention, aſked him if his name was not Graves; and, being anſwered in the affirmative, ſaid he had been making inquiries after him for theſe three weeks; that his brother had told him, he wanted a curacy near Oxford, which he had procured for him; but that, if Mr. Graves did not wait on the gentleman, near Newbury, in Berks, within a week or ten days, it would be otherwiſe diſpoſed of. The old gentleman, who thus intereſted himſelf in Mr. Graves's behalf, was Dr. Samuel Knight, a diſtant relation, the author of the Life of Eraſmus and Dean Collet, and then archdeacon of Berkſhire, who, four or five years before, had taken Mr. Graves to the chaplain's table at St. James's; but, as he had hardly ever ſeen him, except at that time, he did not recollect his perſon.

We have been the more minute in relating this trifling event, becauſe on this apparently-fortuitous meeting depended the future condition of Mr. Graves's whole life. As the parſonage-houſe, on this curacy, was very indifferent, and Mr. Graves found it very uncomfortable living there alone, he prevailed on a gentleman-farmer to take him as a boarder. The farmer had daughters grown up: the youngeſt was not yet fifteen, very handſome, good-natured, and unaffected. A fellowſhip of All-Souls is ſo deſirable a thing, and Mr. Graves was ſo far from entertaining any thoughts of marrying, that he had, a very few years before, declined

declined accepting a propoſal, which, he had reaſon to ſuppoſe, would have been agreeable to each family, of a young lady, whoſe portion was a good living and an agreeable ſituation.

Being, however, now off his guard, the artleſs ſimplicity of this young nymph gained inſenſibly upon his affections; and, before he was aware, he became ſo faſcinated by her attractions, that, however indiſcreet ſuch a proceeding really was, he married, and reſigned his fellowſhip. He had now thrown himſelf on the wide world, with a ſlender, younger brother's, fortune, and a curacy of fifty pounds a year; which, with a very neat but ſmall houſe, was offered him by an acquaintance, a moſt worthy and reſpectable man, of a good private fortune, near Reading, but in Oxfordſhire.

As Mr. Graves had highly diſpleaſed his elder brother, by reſigning his fellowſhip, and by ſo imprudent a match, he had at this time no proſpect of bettering his condition. A ſeries, however, of unexpected and highly-improbable incidents counteracted the effects of his indiſcretion.

After about two years reſidence on this curacy, he was informed that a living in the neighbourhood was vacant, and was adviſed to apply to his friend Sir T. H——. of Langley, to procure it for him. Although Mr. Graves had no reaſon to think that Sir T. for particular reaſons, would apply to the Chancellor, in whoſe gift the living was, yet he did not fail to make him a viſit on the occaſion, which terminated as he expected. About a month afterwards, however, Sir T. meeting a friend of his,* Mr. Skrine, who had then a vacant living in his gift, and was diſtreſſed for a proper perſon to be preſented to it, fortunately recollected Mr. Graves's requeſt, and propoſed him accordingly; and Mr. Graves having been formerly known to Mr. Skrine at Oxford, he found no difficulty in obtaining the preſentation. This living was the rectory of Claverton, in Somerſetſhire,

* Mr. Skrine, father to the accompliſhed Lady Clarges.

ſetſhire, where Mr. Graves came to reſide in 1750, and from which he has never been abſent a *month*, at *one* time, in a period of forty-nine years. This little piece of preferment contributed ſo much to Mr. Graves's happineſs, that he ſeldom mentions the ſubject without expreſſing a grateful ſenſe of the ſuperintending care of Providence, in directing this ſeemingly-fortuitous concurrence of circumſtances to ſo deſirable an event.

As Mr. Graves was under the neceſſity of educating his own children, he took under his care other young gentlemen, and continued that employment above thirty years; and ſome of his pupils have ſince made a very reſpectable figure in the world,

In the year 1763, Mr. Graves was preſented to the living of Kilmerſdon, in addition to that of Claverton, through the intereſt of Ralph Allen, Eſq. of Prior-Park, who alſo procured him a ſcarf from Lady Chatham. When he waited on her Ladyſhip, at Hays, on that occaſion, ſhe condeſcended to examine the preſent Lord Chatham and Mr. Pitt, in French, before him. The latter was then about five years old, and anſwered every queſtion in a manner that aſtoniſhed the viſitor, and gave ſtriking marks of thoſe ſplendid talents which now diſtinguiſh our prime-miniſter.

While Mr. Graves was in town, he received the news of Mr. Shenſtone's death, and that he was, in conjunction with Mr. Robert Dodſley, appointed one of his executors. Mr. Shenſtone's will was very ſhort and clear; but, on conſulting a country-attorney on the ſubject, he ſtarted ſix or ſeven queſtions to be laid before council. The principal was, that, having left his houſekeeper an *annuity* of thirty pounds, *to be paid half-yearly*, it was *doubtful* whether it meant thirty pounds every half-year, or only thirty pounds in the whole; though ſhe herſelf, and every one, knew the teſtator's intention. The executors, therefore, were adviſed to put the

affair

affair into Chancery, in an *amicable way*, where, after bills of ſurvivor and other impediments, they obtained a degree in a little more than a ſpace of ſeven years. Mr. Graves is now living at Claverton, in his eighty-fourth year, healthy and active, unleſs what he ſays of himſelf is only a poetical flight.

" A wight there was, ſcarce known I ween to fame,
Who day by day to Bath's fam'd city came;
Meagre and very rueful were his looks,
He ſeem'd as he had fed on nought but books:
His old great-coat, ' which he could ne'er forſake,
Hung half before and half behind his back.'
Full threeſcore ſprings had bloſſom'd o'er his head,
Yet nimble as a roebuck was his tread;
For, in his youth, he ne'er did heat his blood
With liquors hot, or high and luſcious food;
Therefore his age, like froſty winter paſt,
Hoary, but hale and healthy to the laſt.
' What! walk to Bath, Sir?' cries ſome gouty man;
' No ſir,' quoth he, ' *I did not walk*,—I *ran*.'
He ſtrolled about, and traverſ'd many a ſtreet,
Eftſoons ſome friend or dainty nymph would greet.
With ſcornful looks, by empty fops ſurvey'd,
By ſcornful looks or ſneers, he, undiſmay'd,
On matters deep or muſed or ſeem'd to muſe;
Then made a halt, then read or heard the news;
Bought ſome old book or print perchance, and, then,
Small buſ'neſs done, he travell'd home again.
Such is the life of man, with buſy face,
On trifles bent, he ſtrolls from place to place;
With various ſcenes of happineſs amuſ'd,
By turns applauded, and by turns abuſ'd.
To Sorrow's ſchool ſent weeping from the womb,
Spends his ſhort ſpan, then haſtens to the tomb.
Life's but a morning lounge, unleſs confin'd
To duty's path, and uſeful to mankind."

REVERIES OF SOLITUDE.

As he looks upon *repletion* as the principal cauſe of moſt, if not all, the diſeaſes incident to mankind, his antidote is not merely temperance, but rigid abſtinence, and even faſting

OR

on frequent occaſions. *Exerciſe*, he thinks, is expedient, but *temperance* is *indiſpenſably* neceſſary.

Mr. Graves's firſt publication was, "The Feſtoon, or a Collection of Epigrams, with an Eſſay on that Species of Compoſition." The fate of which eſſay is remarkable. A ſilver medal having been announced, for the beſt eſſay on that ſubject, by the proprietors of a periodical work, a journeyman-apothecary, in Bath, did Mr. Graves the honour of adopting this eſſay as his own; and had the medal adjudged to him for the performance. On the plagiariſm being diſcovered, however, the medal was ſent to Mr. Graves.

In 1786, came before the public, a work, in one volume, called "Lucubrations in Proſe and Rhyme." This was given under the feigned name of the *late* Peter of Pomfret; ſo the author called himſelf, on account of his family coming in the laſt century from Yorkſhire. Both the foreign and domeſtic critics ſpoke of this production with deſerved reſpect.

In 1772, Mr. Graves was the *editor* of the Spiritual Quixotte, of which he gives the following account:—that, although the editor was not the beſt of all poſſible preachers, yet his pariſhioners were ſo well ſatisfied with his doctrine, that they regularly attended the ſervice every Sunday. But, after a little time, a journeyman-ſhoemaker, from Bradford, came into his pariſh, and brought with him a large congregation, and preached and ſang pſalms in a large old houſe; and, thenceforth, he found his church almoſt deſerted, and his flock ſeemed to treat him with much leſs reſpect than they had before done.

On Mr. Graves's going to the meeting, and reminding the preacher, that, as the houſe was not licenſed, he was liable to a penalty of 20*l.* he deſired to preach there for half a year, that it might be ſeen which could convert moſt drunkards and ſinners of every deſcription. He then aſked Mr. Graves what was his definition of faith? and behaved with

with very great inſolence and impertinence, but never repeated his viſits more.

The author of the Spiritual Quixotte acknowledges that he was actuated by ſome degree of ſpleen in commencing that work; and (as he ſays) he by no means thinks "*ridicule the proper teſt of truth*;" but, the more he reflected on the pernicious tendency of ſuch irregular proceedings to ſociety, the more he thought himſelf warranted in his endeavours to expoſe thoſe itinerant teachers, who aimed at rendering the regular clergy contemptible in the eyes of their pariſhioners, and their inſtructions uſeleſs. His next publication was, "A Tranſlation from the Italian of *Galateo*, or a Treatiſe on Politeneſs, by De la Caſa, Archbiſhop of Benevento." He then publiſhed "*Columella*, or the diſtreſſed Anchoret," which he calls "A Colloquical Tale," to ſhew the probable ill conſequence of a young man, deſigned by his education for ſome uſeful profeſſion, or more elevated ſituation in life, retiring in the vigour of youth to ſolitude and indolence in the country.—Having now gained ſome degree of celebrity, he was encouraged by Mr. Dodſley to publiſh two volumes of poetical pieces (which went through two or three editions) under the title of "Euphroſyne." Mr. Graves makes many apologies, in his writings, for this habit of "rhyming;" and ſays, it is as hard to be ſubdued as a habit of ſwearing or drinking, and is almoſt inclined to think, man is a rhyming as well as a reaſoning animal.* He imputes this, in ſome meaſure, to his intimacy with Mr. Shenſtone in his youth, and the ſeductive charms of Lady Millar's Bath-Eaſton Myrtle in his maturer years.

As to the "Sorrows of Werter," of which Mr. Graves has been ſaid to be the editor, we underſtand, he only gave Mr. Dodſley the manuſcript at the requeſt of a particular acquaintance, and that he does not even know who was the tranſlator, though he ſuſpected the tranſlation to have come from

* See Reveries of Solitude, p. 90.

from the pen of a very ingenious perſon of his friend's acquaintance.

"Eugenius, or Anecdotes of the Golden Vale," a narrative of real facts ſomewhat embelliſhed.

"Recollections"* of ſome particulars in the life of Mr. Shenſtone, in a ſeries of Letters to W. Seward, Eſq. F. R. S. 1788.

* "Recollections," &c.—Theſe letters Mr. Graves publiſhed in 1788, in conſequence of what Dr. Johnſon ſays, "that Mr. Shenſtone had not a comprehenſive mind, or active curioſity, or any value for thoſe branches of knowledge which he himſelf had not cultivated;" than which nothing can be farther from the truth. See page about 180; for, we have not the book at hand.

We recollect, however, one or two remarkable traits in Mr. Shenſtone's character. One is, that, even at the age of eighteen, nothing could have bribed him to depart from the dignity of his deportment ſo far as to join in a country-dance. Another was, that he refuſed to tranſport a man, with five children, for robbing his fiſh-pond, ſuggeſting the *policy* of ſubſtituting ſome indelible mark of *infamy* in the place of capital puniſhments, which was an original idea in him, having never read Beccaria, or any book on the ſubject.

The following lines were written when very young, and were never before printed:

While round, in wild rotations hurl'd,
  Theſe glittering forms I view,
Methinks the buſy reſtleſs world
  Is pictur'd in a few.
So may the buſy world advance,
  Since thus the Fates decree;
It ſtill may have its buſy dance,
  Whilſt I retire with thee *

The principal object of the little volume of Shenſtonian anecdotes, which Mr. Graves publiſhed under the name of "Recollections," was, as we have obſerved, to vindicate him from the unjuſt cenſure of Johnſon, and from Grey's ridicule, which Maſon, who was jealous of him as a gardener, ſo unſucceſsfully publiſhed.

"Plexippus on the Aſpiring Plebeian," by the ſame author.

"The Rout," in a letter from a young man in town to his friend in the country.

"Fleurettes," a taanſlation of Archbiſhop Fénélon's Ode on

* Meaning the ingenious Smith, whoſe urn is the ſubject of his fourth elegy.

on Solitude, and other French authors. Inſcribed to Mrs. Montague.

"The life of Commodus," from the Greek of Herodian.

"Hiero," on the condition of royalty, from Xenophon.

"The Meditations of Antoninus, from the Greek. Inſcribed, by permiſſion, to the late Honourable and univerſally-lamented Edward James Eliot."

"The Reveries of Solitude." Conſiſting of Muſcipula, and other pieces in verſe. Printed by Mr. Cruttwell, in Bath; and ſold by Mr. Dilly, in London.

"The Coalition, or Rehearſal of the Paſtoral Opera of Echo and Narciſſus." Inſcribed to the Honourable Miſs Tracy.

Mr. Graves has alſo very lately, we find, publiſhed a ſmall octavo volume of Sermons on various Subjects, inſcribed to Sir Walter James, Bart. with a preface, in which "he thinks it neceſſary, from a mere regard to decency, after publiſhing ſo many volumes of a merely amuſing kind, to give this proof, (ſuch as it is,) that he has not been totally inattentive to his profeſſion." We do not find that Mr. Graves has publiſhed any thing elſe, except a ſmall poem called *The Farmer's Son*," as a counterpart to Mr. Anſtey's "Farmer's Daughter," a moſt affecting tale, in the ballad-metre.

In a brief ſummary account, (comprehending at once a liſt and character of pieces,) which has been furniſhed us by a ſenſible correſpondent who has the honour to be acquainted with Mr. Graves, and the merit to deſerve it, it is truly obſerved, that his "Love of Order" is his longeſt and moſt methodical poem; and the "Invitation to the Feathered Race" one of the moſt ſweet; that his Epigrams have great point; his Epitath for Quin elegantly turned and truly moral; and the "Hogs of Briſtol." with much ſatire, mingles an equal ſhare of pleaſantry. The Compliment to the late Archdeacon of Bath has never been excelled.

Wiſhing

Wiſhing to retire to ſome of the villages near Bath, from the heat of the weather and buzz of company, to ſeek a retreat for himſelf and his muſe, he ſays,

" At Kelſton, ſhe would wiſh to ſing,
And play whene'er I teaſe her;
Still by the penſive Muſe I'm told,
Thoſe woods were made for *Cæſar*."*
" At Newton, ſhe would wiſh to ſing,
Good rector! but, I fear,
Regard for you, a crowd will bring,
And make a city there!"†

The converſation of this venerable man is agreeably zeſted with that epigrammatic turn which points his writings of the lighter kind; and, being accompanied by conſtant good-humour, renders him every where an acceptable companion, his colloquial impromptus being frequently as happy as the *jeu d'eſprits* of his pen, while both are the unmeditated effuſions of a ſtill ſportive fancy and guileleſs heart.

His perſonal figure is very happily caught by the annexed etching; and, even at this comparatively-patriarchal age, he has the eaſy air, light ſtep, and briſk movement, of a ſtripling. He has, indeed, always been remarkable for his activity, and was generally to be ſeen in a compromiſe pace betwixt a walk and a run; which occaſioned the late well-remembered Mr. Thickneſs to ſay, pleaſantly, that " Mr. Graves would be one of the moſt agreeable men in the world, if *he had but time*; for want of which, he only came to ſee you, to let you know he could not ſtay with you a ſingle moment!"

Mr. Graves ſtill reſides at his Claverton retirement, and is the laſt of the bright aſſociation compoſed of the Jagos, Shenſtones, Whiſtlers, and Somervilles, of the day.—Long may the *corner*-ſtone of the building ſtill remain to remind us, that

——— " Such men were,
And were moſt precious to us."

P.

* Sir Cæſar Hawkins. † See Euphroſyne, 2 vol.

WILLIAM SHIELD, ESQ.

(COMMUNICATED BY MR. THOMAS BUSBY.)

GENIUS is not always to be eſtimated by the preciſe degree of merit diſcoverable in its productions: to decide juſtly on individual talent, it often becomes neceſſary to take into the account the diſadvantages it has encountered, and the obſtacles it has overcome; to throw into the ſame ſcale the works, and the occaſional embarraſſments of the author, and to judge by what he has produced in unfavourable and diſcouraging ſituations, what he probably would have effected under circumſtances more auſpicious to his views and inclinations. To theſe conſiderations the ſubject of the preſent memoir is particularly entitled. Mr. Shield, by the intrinſic power of genius, has borne down every oppoſition of accident of fortune, and has raiſed himſelf into high and juſtly merited diſtinction in that path to which nature propelled and fitted him.

Mr. Shield was born in the year 1754, at Swalwell, in the county of Durham. His father, whoſe profeſſion was that of a ſinging-maſter, was a man much and generally eſteemed for his perſonal integrity, and admired by the cognoſcenti of his neighbourhood for his profeſſional excellence. Soon after the birth of his ſon William, he removed to South Shields; and ſuch was his muſical repute, that his practice, even in that obſcure ſituation, embraced the tuition of nearly a hundred ſcholars.

William diſcovered ſo early a taſte for muſic, that his father began to teach him the violin when he was but ſix years of age; and, in the ſhort ſpace of a year and a half, he made ſo extraordinary a progreſs as to be able to perform Corelli's fifth work; although, in the mean while, much of his time was occupied in practiſing the harpſichord, on which inſtrument he made a conſiderable progreſs, as well as

as in the ſcientific exerciſe of his voice, during which he acquired, even at that early period, ſo perfect an acquaintance with the ſeveral clefs as to be able to read them with facility. A circumſtance in direct oppoſition to the prevalent report, that Mr. Shield is wholly a ſelf-taught muſician, and did not enter upon the ſtudy of his art till he had conſiderably advanced in life. William had only reached his ninth year when he had the misfortune to loſe his parent and tutor, who left a widow with four children.

The boy was ſo partial to the practice in which he had made ſo uncommon a progreſs, as to be greatly ſolicitous to continue it, and to render muſic his fixed profeſſion, but this propenſity was thwarted by the conſtant ridicule with which he heard the profeſſion of a *fiddler* treated in a ſea-port town; and, on his propoſing to relinquiſh it, three ſeveral employments were offered for his choice, and he had the liberty of becoming either a ſailor, a boat-builder, or a *barber*. Of theſe, the latter was preferred by his mother's friends, becauſe his fingers had already been uſed to *nice* work: the hand hitherto employed in drawing the *bow* was, they thought, well fitted for wielding the *razor*; but William's mind, like that of his ſea-port companions, having then but one idea of manhood, could no more brook the becoming a *barber* than a *fiddler*, and decided in favour of boat-building: he was accordingly bound apprentice to Edward Daviſon, then living in the vicinity of South Shields. His maſter kept him pretty cloſe to the practice of his new profeſſion; yet was ſo far indulgent to his favourite amuſement as not to object to his continuing the cultivation of his muſical talents at proper intervals; and Shield, in the third year of his articleſhip, occaſionally turned his harmonic abilities to pecuniary account.

Soon after the expiration of his indentures, he reſolved to quit boat-building, and to adopt muſic as his profeſſion. Fortunately for young Shield, the celebrated theoriſt Aviſon

ſon lived in the neighbourhood, and he enjoyed the great advantage of receiving leſſons in *counter point* from that profound maſter. Under ſo able a tutor ſuch a mind as Shield's could not but make a rapid advancement; and having grounded himſelf in the principles, as well as practice, of his art, he went upon a muſical expedition to Scarborough, whither he was invited by his intimate friend Cunningham, the well-known paſtoral poet, ſeveral of whoſe ſongs he had ſett to muſic at South-Shields, the melodies of which were greatly admired for their expreſſion and ſimplicity. At Scarborough his talents ſoon became diſtiguiſhed; he acquired the ſituation of leader of the theatrical band, and the principal concerts; and obtained the intimacy and friendſhip of moſt of the reſpectable inhabitants of the town and its vicinity. Soon after the death of his tutor, Mr. Aviſon, the ſurviving ſon of that great maſter engaged Mr. Shield as leader at the Durham theatre, and at the Newcaſtle concerts. Returning, at the recommencement of the ſeaſon, to Scarborough, he became acquainted with Borghi and Fiſcher, both performers of acknowledged merit, who adviſed him to ſeek a wider ſphere for the diſplay of his talents; and preſſed him to come to London. He therefore repaired to town; and theſe gentlemen made ſo favourable a report of his abilities to Giardini, then leader at the Opera Houſe, that it procured him an engagement in that orcheſtra; and Mr. Cramer, who at this hour entertains the higheſt eſteem for Mr. Shield, was ſo ſenſible of his merit, that when that great performer ſucceeded Giardini as leader, he immediately raiſed him in the orcheſtra.

Mr. Shield, on account of the indiſpoſition of Mr. Bulkeley. was one ſeaſon leader of the band at Colman's theatre. At that time the Rev. Mr. Bate (now Bate Dudley) wrote the pleaſant little after-piece of the *Flitch of Bacon*, and in his great partiality to the talents of Mr. Shield, applied to him to ſett it to muſic: but Dr. Arnold being the regular

regular compoſer to the theatre, a delicacy highly honourable to Mr. Shield's feelings rendered him deſirous to decline the undertaking. However Mr. Bate threatening to withdraw the piece unleſs Mr. Shield were the compoſer, he at length complied, and to Mr. Bate Dudley's muſical diſcernment, and generous compulſion, the town is in a great meaſure obliged for its acquaintance with Mr. Shield's high talents in compoſition. His time continued to be occupied ſome while longer in aſſiſting at the great concerts; ſuch as Bach and Abel's, and La Motte's, for which only firſt-rate performers were qualified, when Mr. Harris, manager of Covent-Garden Theatre, made him the offer of an engagement as regulator of the band, and compoſer to the houſe: a ſituation which he accepted and filled with much ſucceſs. However, a difference between that gentleman and him, on a pecuniary point, induced the compoſer not long after to reſign his new ſtation.

He now reſolved to make uſe of his leiſure, by viſiting that region of the melodious arts, Italy: a ſchool in which he had long wiſhed to ſtudy, and where he made himſelf certain of quickly giving the *finiſh* to his talent. In Auguſt, 1792, he accordingly quitted England, accompanied by the ingenious Mr. Ritſon, to whoſe abilities and induſtry the public owe the reſtoration of many valuable productions of the Britiſh lyric muſe. The firſt place of conſequence at which he ſtopt on the continent, was *Paris*; whence he went to *Lyons*, to *Chambery*, *Turin*, *Milan*, *Lodi*, *Piacenza*, *Parma*, *Modena*, *Bologna*, *Florence*, and *Rome*. Nothing worthy the notice of a ſuperior mind eſcaped his attention at theſe places; yet muſic never ceaſed to be the primary object of his enquiry; nor did the great maſters any where remain unviſited.

At Rome he met with Sir William Hamilton and his Lady, whoſe attention to him did honour to their regard for genius roving in ſearch of ſcience. Prince Auguſtus

alſo noticed him in the moſt flattering manner. It was here that he contracted an intimate friendſhip with that juſtly celebrated landſcape painter, Mr. More, who ſhortly after died, and left him to lament the loſs of a ſincere friend and moſt endearing companion. After receiving leſſons every day for two months, and deriving that general information, and particular inſtruction, for which he left his native country, he quitted Italy, and took his direct road to England. On his return, he renewed his engagement at Covent-Garden Theatre, which did not long continue before another miſunderſtanding took place between him and the manager, which ended in his entire relinquiſhment of the ſituation. He has ſince been engaged in the proſecution of a work deeply ſcientific and important: the great object of which is, to facilitate the acquiſition of the harmonic art, by ſimplifying the laws of harmony, and diveſting the ſcience of that forbidding complexity which deters ſo many from venturing into the labyrinth.

The merits of Mr. Shield as a compoſer are, in a *general* way, univerſally known and acknowledged; yet, a few remarks on his *particular* excellencies will not, I preſume, be unacceptable to the reader.

His ſtyle, generally ſpeaking, is ſimple, neat, and, though correct, unaffectedly eaſy. We find the notes of every *part* in their proper and beſt places, without the parade of intruded learning; and his paſſages never quit the path of nature in ſearch of unmeaning flouriſh and *extravaganza*. His airs are generally ſweet and attractive; often original, and always illuſtrative of the poet's idea. His ſymphonies and accompaniments are, with few exceptions, ſo incorporated in the melody, in point of affinity and congeniality of character, as to mark his knowledge of their true uſe and deſign. His *diviſions* are flowing, ſeldom far-fetched, and not unfrequently formed in the very ſpirit of the air

air they are meant to embelliſh; a propriety rarely found in his contemporaries. His baſes, though not always the choiceſt that might have been ſelected, are reſpectably arranged, and in no inſtance, that I recollect, betray the want of information in the eſtabliſhed laws of compoſition. In his overtures we find great variety and readineſs of conception. Spirit, vigour, tenderneſs, and pathos exhibit themſelves in turn; and his *ſcores* univerſally beſpeak a thorough acquaintance with the powers of the *band*, as well as much judgment in *effect*. The reader, by combining theſe requiſites, will form ſome idea of the *Herculean* taſk of good compoſition; and, by attributing them to Mr. Shield, will do juſtice to that gentleman's genius, taſte and ſcience.

But eſtimable as Mr. Shield may appear as a muſician, from this juſt comment on his profeſſional merit, he has, as I every where learn, ſtill ſtronger claims to approbation from the excellence of his private character. He is a kind huſband, an attentive ſon, and a ſincere friend. Tenderneſs, benevolence, honour, and innocent conviviality are the predominant characteriſtics of his heart; and uſeful intelligence, readineſs of conception, and ſolidity of judgment form the diſtinguiſhing features of his mind.

Mr. Shield had been many years married, and has often been heard to remark that he ought to be the happieſt of mortals at home, becauſe he has the beſt of wives, and that he conſiders the power he poſſeſſes of contributing to the ſupport of his mother as one of the greateſt bleſſings heaven could have beſtowed upon him.

Of the *quality* of his compoſitions I have ſpoken at large, and to the beſt of my judgment; their *quantity* or number will be found in the following liſt:—

The Flitch of Bacon, Roſina, Lord Mayor's Day, The Poor Soldier, Robin Hood, Friar Bacon, Fontainbleau, Omai, The Choleric Father, The Magic Cavern, The

Noble Peaſant, The Highland Reel, The Farmer, Love in a Camp, The Cruſade, The Woodman, Marian, The Picture of Paris, The Enchanted Caſtle, The Czar, Oſcar and Malvina, Hartford Bridge, Sprigs of Laurel, Travellers in Switzerland, The Midnight Wanderer, Netley Abbey, Arrived at Portſmouth, The Lock and Key, Abroad and at Home, The Italian Villagers.

Choruſſes, dances, dirges, glees, ſongs, &c. &c.

Lambeth, Sept. 1799.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE YONGE, BART. K. B.

SIR George Yonge having devoted theſe forty-five years paſt to a public life, is juſtly entitled to a niche in theſe biographic illuſtrations.

He received his education at Eton College, from whence, to complete his ſtudies, he was ſent to Leipſic, where, by uncommon diligence, he enriched his mind with much valuable knowledge.

His father, the celebrated Sir William Yonge, was a character well known in the political hiſtory of the laſt reigns. His eminent abilities, and talent for ſpeaking, with the exquiſite melody of his voice, attracted general notice, rendered him a valuable ſupporter of the miniſter, and procured thoſe honourable ſituations which have ſince been poſſeſſed by his ſon.*

A circumſtance reſpecting Sir William's voice, rather uncommon, we ſhall juſt notice, which is, that its ſweetneſs of tone continued unimpaired, though he had the misfortune to loſe the whole of his teeth. He was an elegant,

* On a great augmentation of the naval and military force being moved for in the Houſe of Commons in 1724, Sir William, then Mr. Yonge, was appointed by the miniſtry to oppoſe the powerful arguments advanced by the celebrated Mr. Shippen againſt the meaſure. For ſome particulars of Mr. S. conſult Rev. Mr. Coxe's "Memoirs of Sir Robert Walpole, 3 vols. 4to. 1798."

gant, well-bred man, a ſcholar, a poet, and an affectionate father. He was not a little proud of the well-directed application of his boy, ſparing no pains to qualify him for that political ſphere to which rank, and other propitious circumſtances, intitled him to look forward.

His father dying, Sir George Yonge was very early called to act as one of the legiſlators of his country. In the year 1754, being then juſt of age, he was choſen member for Honiton in Devonſhire: a borough repreſented by his anceſtors for a ſeries of years, and where, from local intereſt and attachment,* he came in not only independent, but poſſeſſed influence enough to bring in the other repreſentative. A perſon thus circumſtanced became worthy of the miniſter's attention.

During his reſidence abroad, his time was not wholly engroſſed by his private ſtudies. To initiate himſelf into a knowledge of the world, he travelled, and, we believe, ſome diplomatic miniſter took him under his patronage.

During his attendance in parliament, many great and important diſcuſſions were brought forward, and, as he conſtantly grounded himſelf in the argument of the ſeveral topics in agitation, we have every inducement to conclude that he voted from conviction.

In the year 1766, he was appointed one of the Commiſſioners of the Admiralty.

From the year 1754, until the general election in 1796, he continued to repreſent Honiton; *then* he declined offering himſelf as a candidate, and, on that occaſion, was complimented with an appropriate addreſs from his former conſtituents, expreſſive of their regret, and teſtifying their high ſenſe of his long and faithful ſervices.

Conſidering

* This verifies a remark of the late Dr. Johnſon's, "that a very rich man, from low beginnings, *may buy* his election in a borough; but *cæteris paribus*, a man of family will be preferred. People will prefer a man for whoſe father their fathers have voted, though they ſhould get no more money, or even leſs. This ſhews the reſpect for family is not merely fanciful, but has an actual operation."

Conſidering his life as devoted to ſenatorial duties, he has well acquainted himſelf with the principles of government, and the nature of civil liberty. He oppoſed Lord North's adminiſtration, and, on moſt occaſions, his name will be found as the people's friend, and a friend to every meaſure that tended to advance the real dignity and happineſs of his country.

When the amiable Marquis of Rockingham came into power, he was called on to make a part of the adminiſtration; indeed an hereditary claim ſeemed to point him out as intitled to fill the very honourable ſtation of Secretary at War, and accordingly, early in the year 1782, he was appointed to that place, which was enjoyed by Sir William Yonge, his father, in the year 1735.

In April, in the ſame year, he was made one of the Vice Treaſurers of Ireland.

Continuing in the adminiſtration under Mr. Pitt, he ſupported his meaſures, though we do not think there was any great perſonal intimacy between them. During that intereſting period, when the regency was in agitation, Sir George ſtood firm to the party of the miniſter.

The War Office he held with ſlight intermiſſion from the year 1782, until the late appointment of Mr. Wyndham.

In 1788, he was elected a Knight of the Bath; the manner in which this dignity was conferred, proved honourable to the king, and gratifying to the ſubject. The expreſſions of grace and favour with which it was accompanied, ſhewed the perfect recollection his majeſty had of the ſeries of ſervices rendered by his father and himſelf.

In the war department his aſſiduity was conſpicuous, and his exertions, not confined to the mere mechanical routine of office, diſplayed abilities which proved him perfectly qualified for the poſt he filled.

On his reſignation of the Secretaryſhip, he was appointed

pointed Maſter of the Mint: quitting of that office, he was recently made Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, for which ſtation, in September 1799, he was preparing to embark with his ſuite—his lady remains in England.

The talent for ſpeaking, ſo conſpicuous in the father, does not ſeem ſo peculiarly to attach to the ſon; nevertheleſs, on thoſe occaſions in which his powers of eloquence have been exerted, he has acquitted himſelf in an energetic, logical, and convincing ſtyle. But Mr. Pitt has always repreſſed the zeal of his adherents in this line of ſupport, and choſen rather to take the burthen of defence on himſelf.

Deeply read in what concerns the manufactures and commerce of his country, no one is better theoretically qualified to advance its mercantile intereſts—with laudable ambition, about ſix years ſince, he was ſtimulated, in conjunction with moſt reſpectable connections, to introduce machinery, on a moſt extenſive ſcale, to facilitate the manufactory of wool, &c. at Ottery St. Mary, in Devonſhire.

We lament the failure of this great concern; yet, though the county was, previous to this ſpirited attempt, the moſt backward in the improvement and extenſion of its manufactories; yet ſince that time, ſeveral mills, on a leſs expenſive ſcale, have been erected along its coaſt, and they have ſucceeded well.

Public avocation interferes with, but not wholly ſuſpends, Sir George Yonge's correſpondence with the contemporary literati, who have been ready to acknowledge the information derived from his reſearches: he writes with a celerity almoſt unrivalled, and his ſtyle is pure and correct.

Had the ſubject of this ſketch attended as minutely to his private affairs, as he has ſo indefatigably to public concerns, he might now have been happy in the enjoyment of a ſpot that was dear to his feelings—

"His patrimonial treaſure, and his pride,"

and

and have retired, in the evening of his days, from active life, in a manner worthy of himſelf.

His perſon and addreſs are elegant and prepoſſeſſing; of the former we have prefixed an outline, taken in the year 1790.

He was, a few months ſince, preſented to the Borough of Old Sarum, which is the property of Lord Camelford, a place exiſting only in idea, and where the writ is conſequently affixed to a tree in the centre of a field!

—To waſte its eſſence in the deſert air—

When Sir George Yonge has viſited the country during the receſſes from parliamentary duty, he has been active in advancing the local intereſts of his county; and, as a zealous and intelligent magiſtrate, has promoted whatever tended to the benefit of the diſtrict over which he preſides.

He is a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and one of his Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy Council. He is the laſt male branch of his family, and has no iſſue to ſucceed him in his title.

A. M.

Devonſhire, Sept. 1799.

DOCTOR GARNET, M. D.

PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND PHILOSOPHY IN ANDERSON'S INSTITUTION, GLASGOW.

IN detailing the life of this erudite and induſtrious ſcholar, we will have an opportunity of paying a tribute of eſteem to the late Profeſſor Anderſon, and of giving a conciſe ſketch of an inſtitution which promiſes to produce, in the part of the iſland where it is eſtabliſhed, the happieſt conſequence to ſciences and the uſeful arts

Dr. Thomas Garnet is the ſon of a country gentleman, in the county of Weſtmoreland. After the uſual routine of claſſical education, he was placed under the tuition of Mr.

Mr. Dawſon, ſurgeon, at Sedburgh, in Yorkſhire. This gentleman, beſides being eminent for his profeſſional knowledge, is reputed one of the firſt mathematicians in Britain, and, in fact, ſo great is his celebrity in this department of ſcience, that many young gentlemen of Cambridge, previouſly to their taking their degrees, reſort to him, in order to complete their ſtudies. Under this able proficient and inſtructor, Mr. Garnet laid the foundation of his medical knowledge; and, during the four years he continued under Mr. Dawſon's care, not only made a conſiderable progreſs in mathematics, but alſo in the branches of natural philoſophy connected with them. From Sedburgh he repaired to Edinburgh, in order to proſecute his medical ſtudies; and after remaining at that celebrated univerſity for the ſpace of four years, took his degree there in 1788, on which occaſion he publiſhed an inaugural diſſertation, "De Viſu." During his reſidence at Edinburgh he was a pupil of the celebrated Dr. Brown; and ſo ſtrongly was he attached to the well known ſyſtem of that eminent phyſician, that, in defence of it, he wrote and read a paper in the Royal Medical Society, of which he was a member. This eſſay was ſo much eſteemed, that ſeveral of the ſtudents tranſcribed it, and the ſubſtance of it, as we are informed, was afterwards publiſhed by Dr. Gertanner, in Rozier's Journal de Phyſique, without any acknowledgment.

D'Alembert conſtantly maintained, that there is no truth except in mathematics; and it muſt be confeſſed, if the reference is confined to medicine, his poſition is not devoid of foundation. The perpetual revolutions in this branch of knowledge, both as a ſcience and an art, the coloſſal maſs of caſes and experiments, and the eternal diſcrepancy of argument and deductions, threaten to detain it in perpetual infancy. The ſtudent weary of endleſs inveſtigation, or intimidated by the ſtupendous alp of medical reſearch

ſearch, is eager to eſcape from the labyrinth of uncertainty, and, plunging into the region of fancy, graſps ſome ideal theory, which, after being moulded into ſhape, he labours to prop by every argument his ingenuity can invent. Under the direction of a mind thus prediſpoſed, the caſe and the experiment become pleaſant and accommodating, and thus the noſtrum which was meant to cure, tends only to confirm the diſeaſe. Theſe remarks are advanced, not with any intention to depreciate medical enquiry, but with a wiſh to caution the ſtudent againſt the adoption of hypothetical theories, founded on deductions too precipitately made, and to point out the neceſſity of acute obſervation employed without intermiſſion, and of the moſt wary experiment. It is to be regretted that mathematics, which habituate the mind to a regular train of deductive reaſoning, do not generally form part of a medical education.

It would be extraneous to our preſent purpoſe to enquire whether the Brunonean ſyſtem be true or erroneous, *grammatici certant, et adhuc ſub judice lis eſt.* Dr. Garnet publiſhed, about two years ago, the eſſay we have already mentioned; and that early production of his pen, with ſome additions dictated by his maturer judgment, now bears the title of a Lecture of Health. Soon after he left Edinburgh he viſited London, where he applied himſelf to the ſtudy of anatomy, and attended the practice of the hoſpitals with that aſſiduity which marks his character. He had now attained that period of life which rendered it neceſſary to think of forming ſome permanent eſtabliſhment, and, with this view, he formed the deſign of ſettling in Yorkſhire. In the mean time he ſpent a few months in the neighbourhood of Leeds, during which he analyzed and publiſhed his analyſis of the Horley Green water, near Halifax. On the death of Dr. Wilſon, phyſician, at Harrowgate, he repaired to that place, where he publiſhed, in the year 1791, an analyſis of the ſpa there, lately

lately diſcovered in the garden of the Creſcent Inn; and in the year 1792, an analyſis of all the waters at Harrowgate, with an account of their medical properties, and directions concerning their uſe. This work, which has gone through three editions, is an indiſpenſable *vade mecum* of the valetudinary and the convaleſcent idler, who reſort to that faſhionable watering-place; and it had the effect of introducing the author to as much practice as the place and its vicinity could afford. It is now aſcertained, by experience, to be a requiſite for the introduction of a member of the faculty into the *haut ton*, that the candidate for public favour ſhall announce himſelf to the world by a work of merit, and that each ſucceſſive candidate muſt attract attention by novelty, or extract applauſe by the diſplay of ſuperior talents. The happy effect of this rivalry, and ambition to ſurpaſs, is the improvement of medical ſcience, and perpetual emulation produces daily additions to the maſs of knowledge. In no department of ſcientific reſearch does the *cacœthes ſcribendi* ſo ſtrongly predominate as in the medical.

Although the ſucceſs which Dr. Garnet acquired, by the publication of the laſt mentioned work, was the greateſt poſſible in the ſituation he then occupied, the extenſion of his fame naturally expanded his expectation. At Harrowgate, as at every watering place, the crowd of company is only for three or four months in the ſummer, after which there is a total blank—no ſociety; and, what is more ſerious to a medical man, no practice during winter: theſe conſiderations induced Dr. Garnet to form a deſign of leaving Britain, and trying his fortune in a foreign country; from which deſign, however, he was happily diverted. In 1795 he had married a young lady from Berkſhire, with whom he had become acquainted at Harrowgate, and whoſe amiable diſpoſition endeared her to all who knew her. From the flattering reception Dr. Moyſe had

had received in America, Dr. Garnet immediately, after his marriage, reſolved to croſs the Atlantic: and having with that intent purchaſed a philoſophical apparatus, he repaired to Liverpool, in order to embark for America on the firſt opportunity. He purpoſed to deliver lectures on experimental philoſophy, as Dr. Moyſe had done; and, if the country proved agreeable, to ſettle there, but if not, to return in a few years. While waiting at Liverpool for a paſſage, he was ſolicited by ſeveral gentlemen, (and, among others, by Dr. Currie) in the moſt flattering manner to deliver a courſe of lectures on chemiſtry, and the ſubſcription offered was ſo liberal, that he felt he could not refuſe their requeſt. He accordingly began his lectures on a week's notice, without having had leiſure to make any preparation, or without any chemical apparatus in a ſtate of readineſs. Theſe lectures met with a welcome reception; and, during this courſe, he began another on experimental philoſophy, which was attended by an auditory conſiſting of ſeveral hundreds. Having completed theſe courſes, he received an invitation to viſit Mancheſter, where he delivered, with great ſucceſs, the two courſes of lectures he had given at Liverpool, being more than once conſtrained, although he occupied a capacious lecture room, to change it, on account of the ſuperabundant numbers of his audience. While at Mancheſter he received an invitation from Dublin, where a ſtill greater ſubſcription was opened to induce him to viſit that capital, and he had thus a proſpect of receiving very liberal emoluments, when obſerving an advertiſement relative to the lectureſhip of Profeſſor Anderſon's Inſtitution, he became a candidate. Although this office afforded a permanent eſtabliſhment, yet, in point of pecuniary intereſt, he was then in the immediate receipt of much more than the probable income from the lectureſhip; but a laudable wiſh of enjoying a

ſituation

ſituation leſs dependant on the caprice of fortune, and the means of improvement which a reſidentiary ſituation afforded, induced him to accept of the friendly offers of the truſtees. Accordingly, inſtead of going to Dublin, he repaired to Glaſgow, in October 1796, where he ſtill continues. Beſides a daily lecture on natural philoſophy, Dr. Garnet gives a popular courſe of lectures on experimental philoſophy, and another on what is ſtyled the philoſophy of chemiſtry, avoiding, as much poſſible, all abſtruſe terms and technic phraſeology, and adapting his lectures to ſuch as have not had the benefit of a regular preparative education. Thoſe who have viſited Paris, and witneſſed the crowds of both ſexes who attended the lectures delivered at the Lyceum, will learn, with ſatisfaction, that Dr. Garnet has been attended by a very great number of ladies and gentlemen. It is with pleaſure we remark a love of mental improvement, in theſe liberal ſtudies, gradually diffuſing itſelf among the female ſex in the northern part of our iſland. The courſes at a Univerſity are calculated ſolely for profeſſional men, but the lectures of Dr. Garnet or Dr. Moyſe, condenſing the eſſence of ſcience in a narrower compaſs, and in a manner adapted to an ordinary capacity, are perhaps of ſuperior utility, as they powerfully contribute to the general ſpread of uſeful and ornamental knowledge.

In addition to theſe, Dr. Garnet this year read lectures on botany, and, we underſtand, has it in contemplation to give lectures on natural hiſtory. He is at preſent engaged in preparing for the preſs, a work in 2 vols. 4to. under the title of Obſervations made during a Tour through the Highlands, and Part of the Weſtern Iſles; from which, conſidering the known talents of the writer, much information may be expected. He particularly excels in mathematics and chemiſtry, and, in the delivery of his lectures, his manner is modeſt and unaſſuming. Ardent in ſcientific purſuits,

purſuits, to which, every moment from the duties of his lecture-ſhip, and an extenſive practice as a phyſician, is devoted, Dr. Garnet is a ſincere friend to the civil liberty of mankind; but, like all benevolent men, whoſe minds are illuminated by ſcience, ſtipulates, that every progreſſive ſtep ſhall be the effect of deliberate reaſon, and not of ſanguinary licentiouſneſs. The literary world has much to regret, that the political conteſts of the day have inſinuated themſelves among men of letters, and been unhappily productive of heats and animoſities. As the moral character of Dr. Garnet is unexceptionable, an attempt has been made, but we truſt unſucceſsfully, to injure his practice and reputation, by aſperſing the generous nature of his political principles: it was a mean and diſhonourable attempt, dictated by the combined influence of envy, malice, and political rancour.

Notwithſtanding his numerous avocations, Dr. Garnet has found leiſure to communicate to the world a variety of valuable caſes and eſſays, through the medium of Duncan's Medical Commentaries, the Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, the Memoirs of the Royal Iriſh Academy, and the Literary and Philoſophical Society of Mancheſter, of all which learned bodies he is a member. Laſt year he ſuſtained a heavy loſs by the ſudden death of his wife, who was a woman of great amenity of manners.

Moſt of our readers have heard of Anderſon's Inſtitution, lately eſtabliſhed at Glaſgow; and, as it is ſo pre-eminently ſubſervient to the intereſts of ſcience, we conſider it a debt of gratitude to its founder to give a detail of its nature and object. About forty years ago Mr. John Anderſon was appointed Profeſſor of Natural Philoſophy, in the Univerſity of Glaſgow. In this ſtation he had two courſe of lectures to deliver, the one ſtyled the mathematical courſe, and the other the experimental courſe, where-

in

in theory was illuſtrated by experiments. Profeſſor Anderſon was formed by nature to excel in the latter department, and the qualities he inherited from nature were improved by his perſevering induſtry. His perſon was graceful, and his elocution flowing and elegant; but as mathematical reaſoning does not afford an opportunity of diſplaying an oratorical talent, his genius naturally led him to devote himſelf chiefly to his experimental courſe of lectures, which he rendered ſtill more valuable by a very extenſive apparatus purchaſed at his own expence. This liberality met with the reward it merited: his experimental courſe became celebrated, and the number of ſtudents, who, at the time of his obtaining the chair, amounted to about thirty, now encreaſed to upwards of two hundred. His lectures were much frequented by the citizens of Glaſgow, and have been regarded as the principal cauſe whereby that flouriſhing city has obtained its celebrity for arts and manufactures, and its diſtinguiſhed ſtation among the trading towns of Britain.

Profeſſor Anderſon died in January 1796, and, by his ſettlement, veſted nearly all his property in certain truſtees, for the purpoſe of founding an academic ſeminary to bear the name of Anderſon's Univerſity. The principal part of his bequeſt conſiſted of the valuable apparatus which he had in his experimental courſes, and which was reputed to be the moſt compleat of any belonging to any private individual in Great Britain. The truſtees are eighty-one in number, and are divided into nine claſſes, viz. nine tradeſmen, nine agriculturiſts, nine artiſts, nine manufacturers, nine mediciners, nine lawyers, nine divines, nine natural philoſophers, and nine kinſmen, each claſs ſupplying its own vacancies by election. The viſitors are likewiſe nine in number, viz. the Lord Provoſt, the eldeſt Baillie, the Dean of Guild, the Deacon Convener of the Trades, the Præſes of the Faculty of Phyſicians, and the

Dean of the Faculty of Procurators of the city of Glaſgow, the Moderator of the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr, and the Moderators of the Preſbyteries of Glaſgow and Dumbarton. Four general meetings are held annually, and the nine Managers choſen by the Truſtees, for the immediate ſuperintendance of the inſtitution, meet once in each month. At the firſt meeting of the Truſtees, they reſolved to open the claſs of Natural Philoſophy, for which their experimental apparatus was ſo admirably adapted, and as we have already mentioned, choſe Dr. Garnet to the office of Lecturer. Mr. Robert Lothian has ſince been appointed Lecturer on Mathematics; and as ſoon as the funds will admit, it is intended to increaſe the number of the lectures until the inſtitution ſhall embrace every branch of uſeful knowledge.

LORD DILLON.

THIS nobleman is deſcended from anceſtors, a long line of whom has been diſtinguiſhed for a zealous attachment to the Catholic creed. His Lordſhip, nevertheleſs, has been the warm, if not violent, partizan of the Iriſh Adminiſtration, by which the claim of the Catholics to an equal ſhare in the privileges of the conſtitution, has been indignantly rejected. Though his Lordſhip poſſeſſes a very conſiderable eſtate in Ireland, yet much of his time has been ſpent in this country, where an aſſiduous purſuit of pleaſure is thought to have, in ſome meaſure, hurt his fortune. An Engliſh peerage, it is ſaid, has long been aſſiduouſly courted by this Iriſh Baron, and as conſtantly and coyly refuſed by the Engliſh Government. Some ſymptoms of oppoſition, which appeared two or three ſeſſions back in his Lordſhip's parliamentary conduct, have been attributed to his chagrin on this ſubject. Thoſe ſymptoms, however, ſoon diſappeared, and Lord Dillon is again become

come one of the moſt *zealous* ſupporters of the Iriſh miniſter. Should the projected union between the two countries take place, it is probable his Lordſhip's indefatigable ſervices will be rewarded by being made, if not an Engliſh peer, at leaſt one of the Iriſh peers returned to the Britiſh Legiſlature. To every ſpecies of reform, in the popular repreſentation, Lord Dillon had been a very hot opponent, until the Miniſter propoſed *that* reform which conſiſts in ſurrendering the conſtitution of one country to the other, in reducing the repreſentation of Ireland from three hundred to one hundred, and throwing *that* hundred into the ſcale of influence in the Britiſh Commons. Of this ſpecies of reform Lord Dillon has approved and become the champion; and if he has not been able to recommend it by argument or by eloquence, he, however, exerts his utmoſt influence as a landlord, to procure friends to the meaſure. His Lordſhip frequently ſpeaks in the Houſe of Peers, but there is no diſtinguiſhing trait of excellence in his manner or his matter, by which either can be deſignated; his language is colloquial; his delivery, that of a man who intended to recommend himſelf to notice by ſomething elſe than rhetoric; and his matter generally conſiſts of ſuch obvious remarks as ſuggeſt themſelves to the moſt ſuperficial obſerver. On his eſtates, though his Lordſhip is ſaid to act always with a high hand, yet he is eſteemed a good and humane landlord.

RIGHT HON. ROBERT STEWART, COMMONLY CALLED

LORD VISCOUNT CASTLEREA,

(CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE IRISH VICEROY.)

THIS is one of thoſe ſingular men, who, before they attain manhood, lay by the attributes of youth; who leave behind them at ſchool, the levity and folly, the unſuſpecting openneſs and thoughtleſs generoſity of unexperienced age, and come into public life fortified with the cool caution and prudent reſerve which uſually are bought but by experience.

Lord Caſtlerea is the eldeſt ſon of the Earl of Londonderry. Before his lordſhip had reached his twenty-firſt year, he was, at the commencement of the laſt Iriſh Parliament, returned Knight of the Shire for the county of Down. The election, in which he was ſupported by the wealth and influence of his father, laſted for upwards of three months, and is reported to have coſt him upwards of 30,000l. He was not long in Parliament until he tried his ſenatorial talent: the firſt occaſion of importance which occurred for a diſplay of his political knowledge or rhetorical powers, was a debate on the queſtion, whether Ireland had a right to trade to India, notwithſtanding the monopoly of the Britiſh Eaſt India Company. On this queſtion, his lordſhip (then called the Hon. Mr. Stewart, Lord Londonderry being then but a Baron), ranged himſelf with the popular party, and delivered a ſpeech in ſupport of the affirmative of the queſtion, in which though he diſplayed the heſitation, the confuſion, and the forgetfulneſs of a young ſpeaker, yet he gave proof of poſſeſſing conſiderable knowledge and a ſound underſtanding. Oppoſition exulted in this ſuppoſed acceſſion to their ſtrength, and endeavoured to ſecure it by paying to the genius, eloquence, and wiſdom of Mr. Stewart, the moſt flattering compliments. It was ſoon known, however, that Mr. Stewart had entered on public life with far other views than that of attaching himſelf to a party, whoſe numbers and power were every day dwindling into inſignificance before the increaſing and triumphant influence of the Caſtle; or that of ſeeking unſubſtantial popularity, by voting uniformly againſt thoſe who had honours and wealth to beſtow. For a few ſeſſions indeed, he did vote generally with the Oppoſition, but even on thoſe occaſions the reaſons on which his votes were founded, ſo far as thoſe reaſons were explicitly declared, proved him to be rather the heſitating and undecided friend of the Court, than the warm and ſincere ſupporter of the popular cauſe. Mr. Stewart ſtarted into public life, gifted, though yet a boy, with

with the moſt marked talent at keeping himſelf diſencumbered with explicit avowals of political principles; a coy politician, he coquetted between the miniſter and the public; neither could reckon on him as a friend, nor would he give either reaſon to believe, but that, if properly wooed, he might, in time, be won. The growing diſcontents of the people, and the gradual developement of their purpoſes, at length made it neceſſary for his lordſhip to aſſume a more deciſive character; accordingly, when the ſyſtem of *ſtrong meaſures* was adopted by the Iriſh adminiſtration, in order to ſilence diſcontent by terror, or to extinguiſh it in blood, we find Lord Caſtlerea among the warmeſt of its friends. On the acceſſion of Lord Camden to the Iriſh Viceroyalty, his lordſhip was raiſed to the honour of a place in the Iriſh Cabinet, if, indeed, there can be ſaid to be a Cabinet in Ireland, where all the motions of *that* government are created by impulſe from the Engliſh. At all events, he was honoured with a high degree of the confidence of Lord Camden, partly perhaps, becauſe of the family connexion between his Lordſhip and the Viceroy*; and partly, no doubt, becauſe the talents of his lordſhip were uſeful to his government. On the illneſs of Mr. Pelham, his Excellency's chief ſecretary, Lord Caſtlerea was appointed to diſcharge the duties of that office until Mr. P's recovery; and on that gentleman retiring, either in conſequence of continued ill health, or a diſinclination to undergo the fatigues and anxiety of ſo arduous a ſituation, at a time of ſo great danger and difficulty, Lord Caſtlerea was, ſome time ſince, officially declared chief ſecretary to his Excellency, in Mr. Pelham's room. In this office, which his lordſhip continues yet to hold, though his patron, Lord Camden, has been ſo long withdrawn from Ireland, he has conducted himſelf, for ſo young a man, with conſiderable ability. In the troubles of 1798, he diſplayed much fortitude, indefatigable aſſiduity, and great ſteadineſs.—But his conduct has alſo been marked by an inflexible ſeve-

* An affinity between the family of Lord Londonderry and Lord Camden by marriage.

rity, rarely found to accompany the ingenuouſneſs of youth. His manners, though courtly and high, are charged with being haughty and ſupercilious; and it is obſerved of him, that, forgetting he was an Iriſhman when he became a miniſter, he no ſooner ſet his foot within the threſhold of the council-chamber than he outſtripped all his predeceſſors, though Engliſh courtiers, in the promptitude and zeal with which he ſeconded the views of the Britiſh Cabinet on his native country. It was certainly not expected, that from an Iriſhman the propoſal would have been firſt made to an Iriſh Parliament to annihilate the diſtinct independence of Ireland, and to reduce the nation, by whom and for whom they legiſlated, into a dependant province on another country. The firſt propoſal, however, of this meaſure, by my Lord Caſtlerea, was received with a degree of indignant ſcorn, which marked either that the Iriſh Parliament had more of public virtue than my Lord Caſtlerea and his friends attributed to them, or that his Lordſhip was but little ſkilled in that parliamentary management which conſtitutes, it is ſaid, the chief branch of his official buſineſs.

Defeat, however, did not much diſconcert the cool fortitude of his Lordſhip; he reſumed his labours under the perſevering auſpices of the Britiſh Miniſter, to effect a meaſure which would ſo much ſimplify the government of this empire, by deſtroying the inconvenient independence of one member of it, and throwing a deciſive additional weight into the ſcale of influence in the other. It is probable that theſe labours will be effective.

Lord Caſtlerea, a few years ſince, married a very amiable and beautiful woman, Lady Emily Hobart, daughter of the late Earl of Buckinghamſhire, formerly Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and niece to the Rt. Hon. Thomas Conolly. The perſon of Lord Caſtlerea is tall, thin, and diſtinguiſhed by an air of elegance and faſhion which beſpeak his rank. His voice is full and ſonorous, but admitting of little

tle variety. As a public ſpeaker, notwithſtanding an aſſumption of great gravity and great importance, he ranks but in the ſecond claſs. An excellent education ſeems rather to have created than improved his powers.

DR. ADAM FERGUSSON.

THE writer of the following article is a native of the ſame village that gave its illuſtrious ſubject birth, is himſelf well acquainted with Dr. Ferguſſon, and has poſſeſſed the beſt opportunities of knowing his hiſtory from the beginning. However feeble, therefore, the *execution* may be, he can vouch for the *authenticity* of the narrative.

Mr. ADAM FERGUSSON ſprung from the reſpectable family of Dunfallandy, in the highlands of Perthſhire; was miniſter of Logierait, in the preſbytery of Dunkeld. The youngeſt of a numerous family of children, by a lady of Aberdeenſhire, whom he married, was Adam, born in 1724, at the parſonage-houſe. Adam received the rudiments of his education at the grammar ſchool of the village, aſſiſted by his father, who was himſelf an excellent claſſical ſcholar, and beſtowed, on the tuition of his ſon, the greater part of the time which remained after the performance of the laborious duties of a very extenſive pariſh. Perceiving the talents of his ſon even at that early age, to be very ſtrong, Mr. Ferguſſon determined to ſend him to a ſeminary, where, in emulation, there would be the moſt powerful incentives to call forward the energies of his mind. The ſchool of Perth, the county town, was then in very great celebrity, under the direction of Mr. Martin, conſidered as the Buſby of Scotland. Mr. Martin was not merely an accurate ſcholar and expert teacher of Latin and Greek, but a man of profound diſcernment into the human character. Young Ferguſſon ſoon attracted the maſter's peculiar attention. He perceived that mere grammatical attainment was far ſhort of what this youth could compaſs, even during his ſchool education: that he could not only apprehend and remember words, phraſes, rules, and their application, but could think and reaſon on the ſubjects

jects of his ſtudy; and diſplay conſiderable invention. In the uſual ſchool exerciſes on the Latin language, he equalled the ableſt of his ſchool-fellows; but in another exertion he greatly ſurpaſſed any of his competitors. Subjects were, at ſtated periods, propoſed for promoting the improvement of the advanced ſcholars, in compoſition and reaſoning. In his eſſays on ſuch themes, the genius of Ferguſſon firſt appeared moſt prominent. The writer has known ſeveral of Adam's contemporaries at ſchool, and alſo other gentlemen who were educated under the ſame maſter, after he removed to the univerſity, and theſe concur in declaring that the abilities and productions of Adam Ferguſſon were the ſubjects of praiſe, not only while he was on the ſpot, but long after he was gone. His eſſays were preſerved and ſhewn with proud pleaſure by Mr. Martin, to his literary acquaintances.

In October, 1739, Mr. Ferguſſon was ſent to St. Andrews Univerſity, and particularly recommended to the learned and able Mr. Tulideph, juſt become principal of one of the colleges. At St. Andrews there is a conſiderable number of burſaries, (exhibitions,) four of which are annually beſtowed at the commencement of the ſeſſion, on the victors, in a competition in writing and tranſlating Latin. The ſucceſsful candidates are entitled to board at the College table for four years; in the under graduate courſe Adam Ferguſſon ſtood firſt in the liſt of conquerors. In Scottiſh ſchools formerly boys were inſtructed in only the rudiments of the Greek tongue, though made ſo well acquainted with the Latin as to read the higher claſſics with extemporaneous eaſe. At College, therefore, the firſt ſeſſion was chiefly devoted to the Greek language. So ardently did Mr. Ferguſſon apply to that ſtudy, that at the expiration of the ſeſſion, he, with little difficulty, could conſtrue Homer. During the ſummer receſs, he taſked himſelf to prepare a hundred lines of the Iliad every day, and facility increaſing as he advanced in knowledge, he enlarged his performance, and before the commencement of *the ſucceeding* term, had read through the whole work.—

His

His progreſs in the eſſential parts of the Greek language was accelerated by his attention to theſe excluſively. He conſidered that tongue rather as a key to Grecian literature than to *metrical* attainments. Indeed, through life, he has never cultivated verſification; he ſtudied ancient language merely as the vehicle of ancient thoughts, images, feelings, and reaſonings*. In the ſecond ſeſſion at St. Andrew's, to his claſſical he added mathematical ſtudies, and ſoon diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a mathematician. Logic, metaphyſics, and ethics, during the following years, were added to his purſuits. At the end of his courſe he was eſteemed ſuperior to any of his fellow-ſtudents, in each and all of the ſtudies we have mentioned. From a gentleman who knew him from his infancy, and attended particularly to his character and its operations during the college receſſes, and who was himſelf very competent to mark the progreſs of mind, the writer learned, that at twenty years of age Mr. Fergusſon had very profoundly analyſed human nature, and was very thoroughly acquainted with the human character.

From St. Andrews he proceeded to Edinburgh, where a circumſtance happened that tended to ſtimulate the exertion of his powers. Several young men having formed a connection, inſtituted a ſmall ſociety for literary improvement and philoſophical diſquiſition. Among theſe, beſides Mr. Fergusſon, there was Mr. William Robertſon, ſince ſo eminent for hiſtoric effort; Mr. Hugh Blair, ſo reſpectable for elegant literature and compoſition; Mr. John Home, who has introduced the tragic muſe to the Scottiſh woods; and Mr. Alexander Carlyle, the inadequacy only of whoſe exertions to his powers, has precluded the attainment

* The writer once heard ſome Latin converſation, between a very reſpectable maſter of an academy near London, eſteemed one of the beſt ſcholars in the profeſſion, and Dr. Fergusſon. Both ſpoke the language with fluency and propriety in other reſpects, but the latter not in point of proſody. It was with difficulty that the maſter of the academy convinced the learned Doctor that he was erroneous in pronouncing confĕro confēro. Although he has manifeſted himſelf to the world, to be moſt intimately and profoundly converſant in the hiſtory, character, genius, cuſtoms, manners, laws, and politics, of the Romans, yet was he inaccurate in *their ſounds*; although few *men* in England could equal him in writing *ſenſe proſe*, yet many *boys* might ſurpaſs him in writing *nonſenſe* verſes.

ment of the ſame literary eminence; Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, diſtinguiſhed for genius and literary exertions among the ableſt youths of the circle in which he then moved, as now by his genius, legal and parliamentary efforts in the exalted ſtation which he fills, became a member ſome years after its formation. In a ſociety of young men of vigorous talents and different deſtinations, there was neceſſarily an enlarged circle of ſubjects of diſcuſſion. The variety and multiplicity expanded the mind; the conteſt of generous emulation ſharpened and invigorated the faculties; while the knowledge previouſly neceſſary for their exerciſes, and the examination it was to undergo, increaſed extent and accuracy of attainment, and produced the habits of inveſtigation. The members of the ſociety, in whatever particulars they might ſeverally differ, agreed in being informed, juſt, and able reaſoners.

In his private ſtudies, Mr. Ferguſſon, at Edinburgh, devoted his chief attention to natural, moral, and political philoſophy. His ſtrong, enquiring, unprejudiced mind, verſed in Grecian and Roman literature, rendered him a zealous friend of rational and well-regulated liberty. He was a conſtitutional whig, equally removed from republican licentiouſneſs, and tory bigotry. Aware that all political eſtabliſhments ought to be for the good of the whole people, he wiſhed the means to vary in different caſes, according to the diverſity of character and circumſtances; and, convinced with Ariſtotle, that the perfection or defect of inſtitutions in one country, does not neceſſarily imply either perfection or defect of ſimilar inſtitutions in another; that reſtraint is neceſſary in the inverſe proportion of the general prevalence of knowledge and virtue. Theſe were the ſentiments he cheriſhed in his youth; theſe are the ſentiments he cheriſhes to this day.

To divinity he applied ſo far as to comprehend the details, general nature and tendency of the chriſtian ſyſtem; and to underſtand the evidence on which it was founded, without waſting his time in the uninſtructive and unintereſting *frivolities* of controverſial theology.

In

In 1745, Mr. Murray, brother to Lord Elibank, applied to Mr. Fergusſon to be his deputy as chaplain to the 42d regiment, then recently raiſed. Mr. Fergusſon gladly embraced the offer; but from his age and ſtanding, eſpecially the latter, there was an obſtacle to his immediate ordination. By the rules of the church of Scotland, a candidate for orders muſt have ſtudied divinity ſix years before he is propoſed for trials as a probationer. An exception is made in the caſe of gentlemen who underſtand the Gaelic language. The number of theſe being comparatively few, they are permitted to be propoſed after having ſtudied four years. Mr. Fergusſon had only ſtudied two. A preſbytery would have incurred a cenſure by ordaining a gentleman of his ſtanding. An act of the General Aſſembly was therefore neceſſary, and this was procured, *ſpeciali gratia*, on the teſtimony of the profeſſors, under whom Mr. Fergusſon ſtudied, who concurred in giving ſuch a character of the young gentleman, that the Aſſembly admitted him to be an exception to the general rule, and ordered him to be taken on trials. Having joined the regiment, he continued with the corps during the remainder of the war, and was highly eſteemed and reſpected by the officers and ſoldiers. The employment preſented to Mr. Fergusſon, MAN in *a different ſituation* from thoſe which ſcholars have in modern times had an opportunity of contemplating. The learned and able General Melville, when expreſſing his regret, that the portions of hiſtory devoted to military narrative and deſcription, are frequently inferior to other parts, and inadequate to the ſubject, aſſigns as a reaſon, that few ſcholars are ſoldiers, and few ſoldiers ſcholars*. Mr. Fergusſon beſtowed particular attention on the acquiſition of military knowledge; and it is probably owing to the time he ſpent in the army, that his exhibitions of the military

* This obſervation, formerly perfectly juſt, now, happily for the ſervice, does not apply with equal force; we mean in the *regular* troops, in which general knowledge is now added to profeſſional ſkill; in the *volunteer* corps, laudable as is their object, inſtances too often occur of their purpoſe being in a great meaſure defeated by an improper choice of men *to be their officers*, who are neither ſoldiers nor ſcholars.

military character, and operations in his Roman Hiſtory, are no leſs particular, as well as maſterly, than his moral and political narratives and exhibitions. One great excellence in his Roman Hiſtory may be traced to his chaplaincy. Deeply acquainted with ancient manners, having a ſtrong and great mind, Mr. Fergusſon, in his moral eſtimates, affixes a very high value to heroiſm and magnanimity, when exerted under the direction of wiſdom in the cauſe of juſtice. Hence, the military character is, in his mind, a ſubject of great eſtimation. The life of a ſoldier he conſiders as frequently calling forward the moſt powerful energies of the head and heart. The regiment to which he belonged, Lord John Murray's Highlanders, in that war in which Britain was engaged for repreſſing the ambition of deſpotic France, particularly diſtinguiſhed itſelf*.

Mr. Murray having retired from his office, Mr. Fergusſon was appointed principal chaplain. Returning, after the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, to Scotland, he ſpent ſome years either at his father's, in Edinburgh, or the environs, enjoying the company of many of the friends of his early years, who were ſettled in or near the capital. When at his father's he had a peculiar pleaſure in reading in the fields. There is near Logierait, a beautiful green, in the brow of a high hill, ſheltered by rocks from the north and eaſt, commanding a moſt delightful and romantic proſpect to the weſt and ſouth-eaſt, and, on ſome points, defended from the ſun as well as the winds, called the Green *Gate*, or Walk. There Mr. Fergusſon, during the ſummer ſeaſon, often ſpent the greater part of the day.

He afterwards rejoined his regiment, and increaſed in the eſtimation of that gallant corps, as his genius and learning became matured. About this time he applied for the living of Caputh, near Dunkeld; but, fortunately for him, the Duke of Athol, the patron, beſtowed it on another candidate. Had Mr. Fergusſon ſucceeded, that wiſdom and philoſophy which has ſo much enlightened the world, might have been waſted in an obſcure corner, where there were

* Eſpecially at Fontenoy and in Bergen-op-Zoom.

were none to comprehend or reliſh its excellence.* Soon after this attempt he loſt his father, and appears to have had no farther thought of a living in the church, as he did not apply for that of Logierait, though ſomewhat more lucrative than Caputh.† Indeed the caſt of his mind, or, more properly ſpeaking, his habits of compoſition were little fitted for a popular audience. He had early imbibed a great portion of the ſpirit of the ſtoic philoſophy. He could not altogether be ſaid to be a ſtoic, but was and has uniformly been a peripatetic, with a ſtrong bias to ſtoiciſm. His ſermons were profound moral eſſays, exhibiting a philoſophy, compounded of that of Ariſtotle and of Zeno, and, conſequently, were beyond the comprehenſion of the majority of hearers. Indeed, in point of popularity, Mr. Fergusſon was very far ſurpaſſed by common-place declaimers of fanatical rant about faith and grace, to the excluſion of virtue; thunderers who could work on the fancy by terrible images, or flippant pretty ſpouters who could tickle the ears with melodious nonſenſe.§ There was, and we believe there is ſtill, a practice in Scotland, that originated in the conventicles; at the adminiſtration of the Lord's Supper, the clergy met in clubs at the place where that holy rite was performed. Their reſpective pariſhioners followed them; and, from ten in the morning, till ſix in the evening, were entertained with ſermons‖ delivered from a place which they ſtyled *a tent*, viz. two ſledges, covered with canvas, ſtanding againſt each other, and joined by a croſs

* In the very ſame preſbytery, there are now three clergymen of uncommon talents. One of them of *very* uncommon talents, who, for forty-five years, has been confined to an inconſiderable living, though, in point of genius and learning, not inferior to the illuſtrious Robertſon.

† His father, when he found his end approaching, from a knowledge of his ſon's determination, urged Mr. (now Dr.) Thomas Biſſet, ſon of a deceaſed friend and brother clergyman, to make application, as a vacancy muſt ſoon take place. This was accordingly done; a promiſe was obtained from the Duke of Athol for the gentleman in queſtion, who holds the living to this day. Dr. Robert Biſſet, of Sloane-ſtreet, is that gentleman's eldeſt ſon.

§ There was, in the lowland part of Perthſhire, ſome years ago, a clergyman ſo eminent in the pulpit for the exertion of his muſical power, that, when he pronounced the word *Cappadocia* the women began to ſob; but when, with the true Caledonian circumflex twang, he brought out *Meſopotamia*, there was a general concert of affliction.

‖ *Theſe* are the meetings which the poet Burns has deſcribed with ſuch humour, as tending not only to popularity but population.

croſs bar. Standing at this bar, the miniſters delivered ſermons in which reaſon was of leſs conſequence than roaring; the chief praiſe being beſtowed on him who had the ſtrongeſt lungs. Mr. Ferguſſon not being eminent for the loudneſs of his voice, never diſtinguiſhed himſelf at theſe exhibitions. Concerning Mr. Ferguſſon's ſermons, we ſhall take the liberty of copying an anecdote formerly inſerted in a periodical publication. "Always benevolent, Mr. Ferguſſon aſſiſted his friends with his purſe as far as it went, and with his genius, which was infinitely more extenſive. Sometimes he lent or preſented ſermons to his friends. One of theſe one day preached a very profound diſcourſe on the ſuperiority of perſonal qualities to external circumſtances, that ſhewed a very thorough acquaintance with the doctrines of Plato and Ariſtotle. The clergyman in whoſe church the gentleman delivered the ſermon, was at firſt greatly ſurpriſed at hearing ſuch obſervations and arguments from a worthy neighbour, whom he well knew to be totally unacquainted with the philoſophy of Plato, or any other, ancient or modern. When ſervice was over, he paid the young man very high encomiums on his diſcourſe; that it really much exceeded the higheſt expectations he had ever entertained fromthe talents of the preacher. That gentleman told him honeſtly, that he knew very little about theſe things himſelf, but that he had borrowed the diſcourſe from his friend, Mr. Adam Ferguſſon."

Mr. Ferguſſon, in the year 1757, left the 42d regiment, procuring the appointment to his nephew, Mr. James Stewart, ſince dead, while another nephew, Captain Adam Stewart, now a gentleman of great property and conſideration in Perthſhire, was appointed lieutenant and quarter-maſter. Mr. Ferguſſon, whoſe manners were thoſe of a poliſhed and accompliſhed gentleman, was extremely liked in his native country, both by thoſe who could judge in ſome degree concerning his abilities, and by others who were not competent to that taſk. Lord John Murray,* in particular,

* *Cadet* of a noble family in that country, of which the younger members *have*, with little interruption, ſince the Union, been repreſentatives of the

particular, who fancied himſelf a very great admirer of Mr. Fergusſon's genius and learning, often ſpoke of it with as much confidence as if he had comprehended its nature and extent, and uſed to call himſelf the firſt patron of the learned Mr. Fergusſon.

On leaving the regiment he became private tutor in the family of Lord Bute, in which ſituation he continued till the year 1759, when the profeſſorſhip of natural philoſophy, in the Univerſity of Edinburgh, being offered to him, was accepted. Had he continued in the family of Lord Bute till the acceſſion of his preſent majeſty, it is probable he might have attained ſome important office in the ſtate. Inſtead of an eminent literary character, he might have become an eminent political character. He himſelf did not regret his different deſtination; and though the elegance of his addreſs fitted him for a court, his penetrating ſagacity, powerful underſtanding, and extenſive knowledge, practical as well as ſpeculative, qualified him for the cabinet; yet was he himſelf more diſpoſed to the reſearch and contemplation of the cloſet. Of modern writers, none occupied his attention ſo much as Monteſquieu. He was peculiarly converſant with the ſtudy of human nature. He inveſtigated intellect and affection, carefully rejecting hypotheſis, and adhering to phenomena.

In 1764 Mr. Fergusſon was appointed profeſſor of moral philoſophy, and from that time taught what he before ſo completely learned. He now formed a plan of lectures, which we ſhall conſider more minutely, when we come to the publication of his works on moral and political ſcience. What we ſhall here ſay of it may be compreſſed in a few words: he thoroughly analyſed and inveſtigated the nature of man; thence deduced his duty in the various relations of

the county of Perth; leſs eminent, indeed, for political knowledge and ſcience, and oratorial powers, than for the rigid impartiality with which they have uniformly adhered to the miniſter for the time being. One of theſe ſenators was hardly ever in a minority but once; when, after having *voted with Mr. Fox for his Eaſt India Bill*, the majority for the coalition beginning rapidly to decreaſe, he thought it high time to join Mr. Pitt, *and voted for his Eaſt India Bill*.

of ſocial, civil, and political life, with the ſources and ſanctions of his duty.

In 1767 he publiſhed his Eſſay on Civil Society. The object of this work is to accompany man through the ſeveral ſteps of his progreſs, from his firſt rude efforts in policy and art; to mark the human mind advancing gradually from the perceptions of ſenſe to the general concluſions of ſcience; from the operations of ſentiment and reaſon, to the heights of moral and political ſcience and practice; to exhibit barbarity refining into politeneſs, and the ſavage into the philoſopher. The work is divided into ſix parts, and each part ſubdivided into ſections. In the firſt part, our author conſiders the queſtion relating to the ſtate of nature, and the principles of ſelf-preſervation, of union among mankind, of war and diſſenſion, intellectual powers, moral ſentiments, happineſs, and national felicity. The hiſtory of rude nations is the ſubject of the ſecond part, and thoſe of policy and arts of the third. In treating of arts and policy, he conſiders the influence of climate and ſituation, national objects in general, and eſtabliſhments and manners relating to them, population and wealth, national defence and conqueſt, and civil liberty; concluding with a ſhort hiſtory of arts and literature. In the fourth part he conſiders the conſequences that reſult from the advancement of civil and commercial arts. In the fifth he treats of the decline of nations, and in the ſixth of corruption and political ſlavery. In executing this great plan of enquiry into the hiſtory of man, in all the varieties, progreſſions, and declenſions of ſociety, the author had full ſcope for exerting a powerful and profound genius operating upon an extraordinary accuracy of extent in hiſtorical and philoſophical knowledge. The acceſſion to moral and political literature and ſcience from this work was by the ableſt periodical critics, and men of erudition in general, allowed to equal that of any of his contemporaries in Scotland. The author was now ranked among the firſt literati of his country.

Mr.

Mr. Ferguſſon, whom, as he about this time received his degree of doctor of laws, we ſhall henceforward call Dr. Ferguſſon, now became intimate with all the eminent ſcholars about Edinburgh, and many of thoſe in London. Of the young men of talents who moſt highly regarded our author was Mr. Henry Dundas, who has ever ſince entertained a diſtinguiſhed perſonal regard for the doctor.

Soon after the production of this work, he viſited his native village of Logierait, and felt great delight in going over the various ſcenes of his puerile amuſements and juvenile purſuits. He gratified the villagers by his perfect recollection of themſelves and their families; they found their perſonal importance dilate by holding a place in the remembrance and attention of one whom they heard to be among the firſt men of the age, and their provincial and local pride to ſwell, when they reflected, that in this eminent man they ſaw an Highlander of Strathtay, and their own pariſh. Their pleaſure was enhanced by the conſideration of thoſe of his virtues which they could themſelves comprehend—his benevolence, his affability, his agreeable and condeſcending manners; and farther, by viewing in him the ſon of a clergyman whoſe paſtoral and parental care they for more than forty years had experienced.

The ſame year Dr. Ferguſſon married Miſs Burnet, an amiable and ſenſible young lady of Aberdeenſhire, and niece to the diſtinguiſhed Dr. Black.

The moral philoſophy chair of Edinburgh was yearly riſing in eſtimation and importance. It is generally allowed, that no leſſons could be better adapted for forming the mind to habits of inveſtigation, reſearch, and reaſoning, invigorating the powers, and enlarging the comprehenſion of the underſtanding; liberaliſing the ſentiments, improving and directing the affections of the heart. His Inſtitutes, or Synopſis of Lectures, publiſhed about this time, ſerved

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as a compend or text-book to his ſtudents, and to others preſented a general chart of ſcience previous to the particular delineation of human nature and moral philoſophy.

From 1767 to 1773 Dr. Ferguſſon remained chiefly in Edinburgh, and on a farm with which he amuſed himſelf in the vicinity. Difference of opinion on various important points, religious, moral, and political, did not prevent him from cultivating the acquaintance of David Hume, then returned to the capital of his native country. Some real or pretended zealots, from this intercourſe, ſo natural between two great and liberal minds, though not viewing every ſubject in the ſame light, imputed to Dr. Ferguſſon a ſympathy in religious opinion; an imputation to which his elevated views of rational religion, and its foundation in the attributes of the Supreme Being, are the beſt anſwer. This was, indeed, a ſpecies of charge then not unuſually made by miniſters of the Church of Scotland againſt ſome members of their own body; and thoſe among the firſt for learning and genius. Perſons by no means diſtinguiſhed for acuteneſs in other things, were extremely ſharp-ſcented in points of hereſy, at leaſt, when any appearance of it could be charged to men of tranſcendent ability. Againſt genius, knowledge, and wiſdom, they tried to make heterodoxy a *ſet-off*, without eſtabliſhing the juſtneſs of the *items*. Debiting the adverſe party's account with his alleged hereſy, and taking credit to themſelves for their own orthodoxy, they fancied they had balanced accounts; and thus a contemptible bigot might ſuppoſe himſelf equal to a Leechman or a Ferguſſon.

In 1773 his literary renown procured him an offer from the friends of Lord Cheſterfield of going abroad as tutor to his lordſhip on a ſettlement of 200*l.* a year for life. After an abſence of a year and a half, he returned to the profeſſorial chair. At this time the writer of this article had an opportunity of attending his lectures for two courſes; they were in ſuch celebrity, that he remembers gentlemen

tlemen of rank in the literary world regularly attended them. The writer, though then very young, was ſo deeply impreſſed with their excellence, that though then not much addicted to ſtudy, he took accurate notes both of the general principles and illuſtrations, and can ſay for himſelf, from experience, and for others from their concurrent teſtimony; that from no other ſyſtem of literary diſcipline, at any ſtage of their education, they received ſo much advantage as from the lectures of Fergusſon; that from him they learned the objects of purſuit, and the means of attainment, in moral and political ſcience; ſo that if they did not ſucceed, it muſt be for want of either the power of inveſtigation, or of its direction to theſe objects. The Doctor's mode of communicating his knowledge was firm, manly, and impreſſive, but mild and elegant; he was delicate, but juſtly ſevere, in his rebukes to the inattentive and negligent. One day that he was engaged in that part of his courſe that treated of the practical application of the moral qualities which he had before deſcribed, he was ſpeaking on the folly of idleneſs and inattention to the buſineſs in hand, ſome thoughtleſs young men were whiſpering and trifling in the gallery, "Gentlemen," ſaid he, "pleaſe attend; this ſubject peculiarly concerns *you*." The youths, though they had been inadvertent, far from being devoid of either apprehenſion or ſenſibility, were much more aſhamed and ſorry than if called to order by imperious vociferation.

The Doctor propoſed, periodically, themes for diſcuſſion to his pupils. In one of theſe exerciſes the writer recollects that Lord Maitland, (now Earl of Lauderdale), peculiarly diſtinguiſhed himſelf by an Eſſay on Travelling, which, with great acuteneſs and ability, diſplayed the advantages reſulting to a diſcerning and able mind, from con-

templation of man in various ſpecies of ſociety, and their diverſities of political inſtitution and civil manners. His lordſhip, who could not then be above eighteen, inſpired both his maſter and his fellow-ſtudents with a high opinion of his talents, an opinion which the exertions of his manhood, whether politically agreeable or diſagreeable to either, tended moſt powerfully to confirm.

In 1776 Dr. Fergusſon anſwered Dr. Price's production on Civil and Religious Liberty. The ground on which our author differed from the learned Price was the inapplicability of his doctrines to ſociety, and to imperfect man, as known from experience. He does not, however, fail to manifeſt a very high reſpect for the talents of his antagoniſt, and a candid opinion of his intentions.

Meanwhile the Doctor was preparing for the public a more laborious and greater work than any which he had before preſented to the world. To an ordinary reader the Roman Hiſtory would have appeared exhauſted; the mind of Fergusſon viewed it in a different light, and as replete with materials for moral and political inſtruction. In 1778 his work underwent an interruption, as he was requeſted to become ſecretary to the five commiſſioners ſent out for the purpoſe of offering terms of peace to the Americans. The reſult of this propoſed negociation is too generally known to require political notice. Returning home, he reſumed the charge of his claſs, and continued his attention to the hiſtory of Rome. In 1782 he gave to the world that work, which may well be ſtyled the philoſophy of Roman Hiſtory. His object was the ſame as in the Eſſay on Civil Society—to preſent man, as he was known from hiſtory to have always conducted himſelf. To appreciate the value of Fergusſon's Progreſs and Termination of the Roman Republic, it is neceſſary to conſider what

what was wanting to this momentous ſubject. The labours of former writers, a great part of Livy's Hiſtory, and the whole of Salluſt's General Hiſtory have been loſt. Polybius, valuable and important as his work is, as far as it has been preſerved, being both imperfect and confined to particular periods; the great Biographer of antiquity having treated of Roman affairs in only detached portions, ſo far as they illuſtrated the LIVES of his ſubjects, and even all thoſe not being entire; there is extant no ſuch entire hiſtory of Rome, from any ancient writer, as to exhibit the clear unbroken ſeries of events, of effects and cauſes. In both ancient and modern times, general views of the conſtitution and government of Rome have been delineated by writers of ability, eſpecially by Polybius and Monteſquieu. Theſe ſerved as the baſis of political theories, and enlarged the ſtock of political knowledge and ſcience; but did not conſtitute a Roman hiſtory, diſplaying not only principle, but operation and conſequence. In modern times ſeveral books have been publiſhed, profeſſed to be hiſtories of Rome; but not laying before us the Riſe, Progreſs, and Termination of the Roman Republic in that maſterly and inſtructive manner in which Gibbon preſents to us the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. This was the want in literature, to ſupply which Dr. Fergusſon undertook his work. In exhibiting Roman character and action, the author preſents to us every where riſe, progreſs, operation, and effects. In the military hiſtory we ſee the cauſes that made the Romans ſoldiers; and the improvements produced by ſteady and perſevering policy, in arms and in tactics, by the advances of experience, from their firſt conteſts with the different neighbouring hordes of barbarians to the perfection of the military ſyſtem under Julius Cæſar. In his political reviews we have a ſimilar

ſeries, and, through the intermediate links, are fully able to ſee the connection between the firſt and the laſt, to mark proceſſes, and comprehend reſults. The ſame obſervation holds as to the moral characters of the Romans from the times of Cincinnatus and Fabricius, to thoſe of Catiline and Clodius; while virtuous, the Romans were free and flouriſhing; their vices made them the ſlaves of a ferocious deſpotiſm. Theſe are the great leſſons which the principles and details of Dr. Ferguſſon's hiſtory teach. Equally maſterly in the diſplay of individual as of national character, he probes both to the bottom. Allowing to Julius Cæſar juſt and full credit for his extraordinary talents, he, with the generous indignation of a free man, reprobates exertions that enſlave mankind.

In 1784 Dr. Ferguſſon reſigned the moral philoſophy chair, and retired on the ſalary of the mathematical, which was now taught by Mr. John Playfair, one of the moſt profound ſcholars of the age. Mr. Dugald Stewart was, in his moral lectures, ſucceſſor to Dr. Ferguſſon, and has taught the claſs ever ſince.

The Doctor's principal literary employment was now in preparing for the preſs his lectures, which have ſince informed and inſtructed the public under the title of the Principles of Moral and Political Science. This work conſiders, firſt, hiſtorically, "the moſt general appearances in the nature and ſtate of man." Under the hiſtorical head, he conſiders man's place and deſcription in the ſcale of being; ſecondly, examines the characteriſtics of his intelligence; thirdly, traces the ſteps of his progreſſive nature. Having eſtabliſhed the fact of man's conſtitution and condition, he ſecondly examines the ſpecific good incident to human nature; treats of moral law, or the diſtinction of good and evil; applies their general principles.

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Theſe he explains under the heads of ethics, juriſprudence, and politics. The ſucceſs of his inveſtigation has not been owing merely to the powers of his intellect; but the courſe in which it was exerciſed, and the objects towards which it was directed. As to his courſe, he followed the road diſcovered and ſhewn by Lord Bacon, obſervation leading through induction to general principle; and, conſequently, excluding hypotheſis, as to the objects of his reſearch, confining his enquiries into phenomena, and their general laws, inſtead of waſting time in fruitleſs enquiries after efficient cauſes.

The political principles and inculcations of this ſage are ſuch as naturally ariſe from the exerciſe of the underſtanding, deriving its materials from experience of particular governments combined with the knowledge of human nature; arguing from hiſtory, and not conjecturing from fancy. On the queſtion whether all men have an equal right to govern, he denies that any one has a right, but contends that it is uſeful and neceſſary for all, that there ſhould be a government of which the end ſhould be the general good, and its principal functions ſhould be performed in thoſe moſt qualified and diſpoſed to promote that general good. "Prior to convention (he ſays) every one has a right to govern himſelf, but *not to govern any one elſe.* THE GOVERNMENT OF OTHERS, then, *prior to convention*, IS NOT MATTER OF RIGHT TO ANY ONE, although TO HAVE GOVERNMENT, and this purged of every perſon incapable or unworthy of the truſt, IS MATTER OF EXPEDIENCE TO EVERY ONE."

Conceiving government to be intended for the general advantage, he, on the one hand, reprobated the old ſyſtem of France, as framed, or rather jumbled together, in ſuch a manner as to degrade human character, and make its ſubjects

ſubjects in general the wretched ſlaves of capricious and tyrannical deſpots; but the new ſyſtem he reprobates as doing much more miſchief than that which offended him in the old. He has not, however, actively interfered in political queſtions of recent diſcuſſion.

His Treatiſe on Moral and Political Science was publiſhed in 1793. Since that time he made a tour to Italy, with a view of collecting, in the libraries of that country, materials that he expected would be uſeful in a new edition of his hiſtory. The ſecond edition is now publiſhed with conſiderable enlargements; but, in the diſcuſſion of political principles, without any reference to preſent queſtions or affairs.

Dr. Fergusſon is not merely a ſpeculative moral philoſopher, but a practical moraliſt. He is diſtinguiſhed for integrity, benevolence, firmneſs, and thoſe other qualities of the heart that can render the poſſeſſor amiable and eſtimable. Although the ſalaries of the Edinburgh profeſſors are ſmall, in order to ſtimulate exertions that may produce numerous and lucrative claſſes, the generoſity of Fergusſon often beſtowed gratuitous admiſſion. His own income was therefore leſs than it might have been; a penſion from government, however, together with the returns of his works, and other emoluments, rendered him eaſy in his circumſtances, though not opulent. His manners are thoſe of an accompliſhed gentleman; his converſation is pleaſing and ſimple, though frequently diſcovering, ſeldom manifeſting, much either of his capacious genius or extenſive learning. In company common-place men, fond of figuring away by talking, might, if, as ſuch often do, they rated ability by colloquial diſplays, flatter themſelves that they were ſuperior to Dr. Fergusſon. Great as his credit is, at the bank of genius and knowledge, he ſuffers his caſh to lie there,

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to be drawn for according to his occaſions, without diſplaying his ſtores for the admiration of a company. He is far from carrying about his whole ſtock in a card-purſe. In convivial parties, Dr. Fergusſon, though temperate, is not abſtinent; and uſed to enjoy an agreeable friend with much heartineſs. He is extremely hoſpitable. His place of reſidence is now Manor, near Peebles, about twenty miles from Edinburgh. He frequently viſits that capital; where, and in its environs, he ſpends moſt agreeable hours with Mr. Home, Dr. Carlile, Dr. Blair, Dr. Black, and other nearly contemporary friends, of whom he himſelf is the youngeſt. He has ſeveral children; of theſe the eldeſt ſon is a reſpectable advocate, the other ſons doing well in other employments; and the daughters very amiable young ladies, living with himſelf.

Dr. Fergusſon was a well-formed, active, muſcular man, with handſome features, a fair complexion, and a countenance indicating the qualities of his head and heart. The expreſſion of his light blue eyes is rather thoughtful than animated, the ſerene rays of intelligence fully overbalancing the want of the luſtre that reſults from mere colour.

There are two ſets of literary men in or from Scotland, who look up either to Dr. Blair or to Dr. Fergusſon, as their models; the one conſiſting of thoſe who have devoted their principal attention to rhetoric and fine compoſition; the other, without neglecting theſe, have devoted themſelves chiefly to hiſtory, biography, philoſophical criticiſm, and political enquiry.

R. B.

MR.

MR. WILLIAM HAYLEY.

THE favourite adage of antiquity, that "the qualifications of a poet are the peculiar gifts of Heaven," has been ſanctioned by the opinion of the moſt eminent critics of modern times, though it has not been univerſally admitted as a poſition ſtrictly conformable to the reſult of philoſophical inveſtigation. Certain it is, that many have acquired a diſtinguiſhed name, as poets, in the republic of letters, whoſe productions, when nicely ſcrutinized by thoſe accuſtomed to argue from effects to cauſes, cannot be conſidered as the emanations of genius. Among writers of this deſcription, the ſubject of the preſent ſketch ranks in the firſt claſs. He did not, like Cowley, Milton, and Pope, afford any premature diſplay of poetical excellence. He did not, in his early years, aſſert his claim to inſpiration, and produce any proofs of divine origin; but before he entered upon the arduous taſk of compoſition, he read much and thought more. He ſtored his mind with many valuable treaſures of ancient and modern literature; he had, in moſt inſtances, the merit of exploring the nature of the ſubject he was about to celebrate, and of eſtabliſhing a deſign in his work, without which it is impoſſible to proceed with order, or to produce appropriate embelliſhment.

Mr. Hayley, ſon of Thomas Hayley, Eſq. of the County of Suſſex, and of Miſs Yeates, daughter of Colonel Yeates, member for Chicheſter, was born in that city, in October, 1745. In his infancy he left his father, but he received from the tender care of his mother, every attention which his ſituation required. He was placed, when very young, at Kingſton ſchool, but his progreſs in the

the firſt elements of knowledge was conſiderably retarded by ſickneſs, which a conſtitution peculiarly delicate was ill-formed to bear. After a ſhort reſidence there, Mrs. Hayley, apprehenſive that his health might be ſtill more impaired, by too ſtrict an attendance to ſcholaſtic duties, had him inſtructed under the maternal roof, in claſſical learning. He was then ſent to Eton College, where he was more diſtinguiſhed by his maſters and juvenile contemporaries for benevolence of temper and mild and engaging manners, than for any manifeſtation of ſuperior talents, or rapidity of improvement. His conduct, both in the hours of ſtudy and of recreation, gave abundant promiſe of future worth, as an individual of uncommon benignity in private life; but none of thoſe vigorous effuſions of original character eſcaped from him, that burſt ſpontaneouſly from the fervid mind of genius, and preſent, in miniature, what the attentive obſerver fondly expects, one day, to view at full length.

He entered Trinity-hall, Cambridge, at the age of ſixteen, and was, for the firſt time, drawn aſide from his collegiate courſe, to celebrate, in lyric ſong, the birth of his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales. His compoſition on the occaſion was ſuperior to thoſe of ſeveral of the poetaſters of that day on the ſame ſubject; but ſuch a ſuperiority was contemptible in the opinion of a youth, whoſe ſanguine hopes had induced him to imagine, that his ode would become the theme of national panegyric, and the object of royal patronage. His judgment, ſoon after, taught him to condemn the vanity of the attempt, and he even cordially joined in ſentiment with thoſe who cenſured his maiden eſſay, in conſigning it to ridicule and diſgrace.

The ambition of poetical diſtinction did not, however, forſake him; he felt, that to deſerve fame, ſomething more

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was requiſite than a mere deſire to excel, circumſcribed by the narrow outlines of knowledge, traced out for him at Eton and Trinity Hall. He found it neceſſary to collect a copious fund of intellectual wealth, and to enrich his mind with acquirements which he might combine or expand, according to the exigence of his ſubſequent purſuits.

From his failure in his firſt attempt to his marriage, in 1769, during an interval of ſeven years, his attention to the works of the moſt approved authors was conſtant and laborious. He minutely ſtudied the matter, the ſentiments, and ſtyles of the favourite poets and orators of Greece and Rome. He followed the progreſs of the art of poetry, with ſlow, but ſure ſteps, from the revival of literature in Europe, to modern times. He peruſed and digeſted the moſt judicious works of criticiſm, without ſacrificing his own conviction to received opinions, and confining his reaſon within the trammels of magiſterial authority. In the French and Italian languages, he found inexhauſtible ſources of inſtruction and fancy, and he became a perfect maſter of the various beauties of Corneille, Racine, Rouſſeau, Voltaire, Dante, and Taſſo. He alſo cultivated his taſte for the fine arts with ſucceſs, and made himſelf converſant in the principles of ſtatuary and painting.

On his marriage, in 1769, with Miſs Ball, daughter of the Dean of Chicheſter, he ſettled in the metropolis, whence he retired to his country ſeat in Suſſex, after a reſidence of five years. His mind found no delight in the gay ſcenes of faſhionable life, and as he fancied himſelf a poet, he determined, by further cultivation, to realize the fond hopes which he began, with ſome confidence, to entertain of his powers. The two firſt years which he paſſed in retirement, were alternately dedicated to the innocent charms of rural enjoyment,

enjoyment, and to the practice of the poetical theory which he had been ſo indefatigable in forming. He had, indeed, while in London, occaſionally indulged his favourite propenſity, and though his pieces were praiſed by critics of celebrity, who admired his talents, he could not ſuppreſs the timidity which prevented the publication of them. Thus he continued to write, and continued to conceal his writings from the public eye.

At length, after repeated intervals of fear and hope, confidence triumphed over every timorous conſideration, and he reſolved to come forward, not as a competitor for momentary and periſhable applauſe, but as a candidate for noble and laſting reputation. His difficulties in ſelecting a new and intereſting ſubject were great, but he knew, that whatever topic he might chooſe, he would have more obſtacles to ſurmount in cloathing it in a new and intereſting dreſs. Painting diſplayed attractions which decided his opinion. The ſubject, though difficult to be handled without a preciſe knowledge of the art, was fruitful in ideas, both faſcinating and dignified, inſtructive and ſublime.

His eſſay on painting was publiſhed in 1778, and Hayley regularly began his life as an author, in his thirty-third year; an age in which the reputation of Pope was in its full blaze of popularity. The criticiſms which the writer thought proper to introduce into this work, though in common inſtances accurate, were, in thoſe of a more minute and refined nature, cenſured by the artiſts, whoſe ſuperiority of judgment, with reſpect to their own purſuits, will hardly be conteſted. The diction is, in general. adequate to the matter. It is perſpicuous, flowing and impaſſioned. He ſeems to have been convinced, that the moſt captivating ſubſtitute for novelty of thought, is ſweetneſs of numbers and richneſs of verſification. It has, however, been blamed

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for a redundancy of ſtyle, that expoſes the poet to the charge of not ſufficiently varying the conſtruction of his periods.

The poem was deſervedly praiſed, and Mr. Hayley was tempted, by the ſolicitations of his friends and admirers, to reſume his reſidence in London. Had he been really ambitious of popularity, or deſirous of courting the protection of the great, a more favourable opportunity could not have preſented itſelf to his wiſhes. There was, from the firſt appearance of his production, an importance attached to his name in the literary world, which he might have cultivated with the patronage of the moſt diſtinguiſhed circles, and with the moſt profitable reſults to his private intereſt. But, like Horace, his love for the enjoyments of domeſtic life, and his fondneſs for his farm, were not loſt in the triumph of his muſe. As a moraliſt, he may be fairly ſuppoſed to have enquired:——

" Cur valle permutem Sabinâ
Divitias operoſiores? "

His eſſay on hiſtory appeared in 1780, and bore deciſive marks of conſiderable improvement. It certainly poſſeſſes the faireſt pretenſions to rank as his beſt production, and exemplifies the happy art of embelliſhing character with animated deſcription, ſplendid imagery, and dignified ſentiment. The improvement, however, naturally aroſe from his choice of a ſubject more conformable to his general knowledge, and more congenial to the public taſte. He had not to diſcuſs the principles of an art, with which he was not thoroughly acquainted, and on which his comments, however juſt, were liable to be controverted by the caprice and opinions of different maſters.

Soon after followed " The Triumphs of Temper," a work

work certainly more bold and luxuriant than his former pieces; but his confidence is raiſed to an exceſs of daring, and his luxuriance, from the too frequent introduction of allegory, and the ſtudious accumulation of pomp and ſplendour of diction, is, at times, unintelligible, and often dazzles but to confound. There is, notwithſtanding, much to praiſe, and though his Pegaſus flies with a loofe rein, he has a grandeur in the irregularities of his flight, that ſhews an extenſive range of fancy, of which the poet may not, perhaps, have been thought capable.

Mr. Hayley now ſeemed determined not to linger in the career of fame, and in 1782, the literati were ſurpriſed at the publication of the "Eſſay on Epic Poetry." It abounds in melody of numbers and copiouſneſs of expreſſion, but unfortunately betrays many marks of a mind, negligent of the neceſſary connexion between thought and language. The moſt faſtidious critic muſt allow it to poſſeſs numerous documents of induſtrious inveſtigation and correct taſte, with unqueſtionable proofs of a profound knowledge of the ſubject. But this is not ſufficient; the profeſſor who delivers lectures on the ſubject matter of his proſpectus, ſhould be careful not to give to his ſcholars an opportunity to read lectures to him in their turn. He, who undertakes the arduous taſk of inſtructing others, ſhould be conciſe, luminous, and impreſſive. This excellence has been rarely attained by our author in his Eſſay on Epic Poetry. He is looſe, inadequate, and careleſs of appropriate ſtyle. Had not Cicero, Quinctilian, and Longinus, ſuited their method and terms to their ſubjects, they would not have been raiſed to that pre-eminence of authority which they have ſo long enjoyed*.

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* It muſt be admitted, that the notes to the Eſſay evince a great fund of learning, and a correct knowledge of different languages.

Of his dramatic productions, we cannot ſpeak in a very favourable manner. His rhyming comedies can only be conſidered as ſo many experiments, hazarded to gratify the curioſity of the writer. They are chaſte in ſentiment, and pure in language; but they do not poſſeſs a ſufficient degree of wit, humour, and intereſt, the principal things that could recommend them to public favour.

The tragedies of Mr. Hayley furniſh a ſtriking proof that he was unacquainted with the nature of the Engliſh drama. The verſification is correct, and frequently rich, but the plots are devoid of incident, and our affections are faſt aſleep, when the boſom ſhould be agitated by the varied paſſion of the tragic muſe. That judgment muſt have been very erroneous, which could entertain any hopes of the ſucceſs of ſuch plays, while *Julius Cæſar*, *Cato*, and *Irene*, were diſcarded from the ſtage.

His miſcellaneous works are both inſtructive and amuſing, and his compoſitions in proſe, though not diſtinguiſhed for energy or grace, poſſeſs both in a degree far above mediocrity.

Mr. Hayley ſeems to have taken Pope for his model, not with the deſign of emulating, but of approaching him in a nearer degree than any of his predeceſſors or contemporaries. Like that great maſter, he has been minute in his attention to cadences, pauſes, and the charms of modulation. But his ſentiments are too much expanded, when they ought to be condenſed. His amplification is not without magnificence; but he amplifies when a judicious and ſtriking contraction is neceſſary. Not ſatisfied with preſenting a combination of ideas, in one advantageous light, he goes on enlarging, until its original vigour is impaired, and the langour of the poet and that of the reader become reciprocal.

cal. Yet, even here, he has the merit of diſplaying elegance and grace in his excurſions; but he is elegant without ſtrength, and graceful without preciſion. Poetry too diffuſed, like empire too extended,

"Exchanges ſolid ſtrength for feeble ſplendour."

His imagery is judicious and ſometimes lofty, but it wants thoſe vivifying ſparks of genius that brighten into a blaze of enthuſiaſtic admiration for the poet. He is without vehemence and impetuoſity, but he is alſo without inequality and roughneſs. The creative faculty is not to be traced in his works, but he has made his muſe ſubſervient to the nobleſt purpoſes; and the name of HAYLEY will be remembered with honour, while polite literature, morality, and taſte ſhall continue to be cultivated, practiſed and admired.

In private life, the conduct of Hayley is intitled to the higheſt panegyric. From his earlieſt introduction into ſociety, he has been remarkable for amenity of manners, integrity of principle, and independence of mind. He has never condeſcended to flatter his ſuperiors in rank, nor has he courted popularity by thoſe unworthy means, to which genius has been known to proſtitute its dignity. An uniform friend to virtue and talents, he has, in many inſtances, reſcued innocence from diſtreſs, and merit from penury.

The monument to the memory of Collins, the poet, in Chicheſter cathedral, was deſigned and the epitaph written by Mr. Hayley, who was a very liberal ſubſcriber towards its erection.

No perſon lives in more elegant retirement than Mr. Hayley. His grounds at Eartham, have been laid out by himſelf,

himſelf, with as much taſte, as if they had been ſuperintended by Mr. Capability Brown. He now ſpends much of his time at Telpham, near Bognor, where he has built an elegant cottage, for the purpoſe of affording his ſon the benefit of ſea-bathing, whoſe long declining ſtate of health has unhappily involved him in great affliction.

THE COUNTESS OF DERBY.

MANY females have riſen from the loweſt walks of life to diſtinguiſhed eminence; ſome on account of their perſonal charms, others by fortuitous circumſtances, and many by adding cunning to their attractions, but few, very few, by their intrinſic merit, their ſuperior beauty, and their virtuous deportment united.

The ſtage is a dangerous ſituation for a young woman of a lively temper and perſonal accompliſhments, eſpecially when her profeſſional excellencies have ſtamped her a favourite with the public. To preſerve the line of virtue amidſt ſuch various temptations, and amidſt numerous admirers poſſeſſed of titles and affluence, evinces a ſtrength of principle and a purity of heart that juſtly call for the greateſt admiration When a perſon in ſuch a ſtate, and ſo circumſtanced, falls beneath the allurements which continually preſent themſelves, even the virtuous are more diſpoſed to pity than to cenſure, to excuſe than to condemn. But when one thus placed, nobly braves every temptation, reſiſts all the glittering attractions which are held out, and, without paternal guardianſhip, ſteers her courſe through the intricate quickſands, without once deſerving a cenſorious remark from the obſervant multitude, it is proper to hold ſuch an one forth as an example deſerving of praiſe and imitation.

Mr. Farren, her Ladyſhip's father, ſerved a regular apprenticeſhip to a ſurgeon and apothecary at Cork; and his brother roſe by his merit, to the rank of captain in the 64th regiment of foot. This gentleman was a ſcholar and

an author, and wrote an eſſay on taſte, which was put into the hands of Dr. Hawkeſworth, and met with his approbation, but we believe it was never publiſhed.

The father of Miſs Farren, after he was out of his time, ſet up in buſineſs for himſelf at Cork, but though he was generally reſpected, and married the daughter of Mr. Wright, an eminent brewer at Liverpool, with whom he had ſome fortune; his practice failed, and at length he became inſolvent. It muſt not be concealed, that his conduct, in ſome reſpects, proved the ſource of his misfortunes, for he was fond of company, without being ſelect in his choice, and loved the tavern better than his ſhop. He had always been partial to theatrical amuſements, and greatly delighted in aſſociating with the children of Theſpis in his native city. After his retirement to Liverpool, therefore, and finding that his father-in-law's circumſtances were not adequate to his expectations, he boldly reſolved upon venturing into the dramatic line. His irregular habits, however, continued, and had it not been for the exertions of Mrs. Farren, and the aſſiſtance which ſhe received from her friends, the ſituation of herſelf and her children muſt have been wretched in the extreme. She brought him ſeven, of whom only two are now living, Elizabeth, the ſubject of this notice, who was the ſecond, and Peggy, the youngeſt, who is the wife of Mr. Knight, a reſpectable performer of Covent Garden theatre.

The Counteſs was born in 1759, and loſt her father when ſhe was very young. In 1773, ſhe made her firſt appearance on the Liverpool ſtage, in the character of Roſetta, in the comic opera of Love in a Village. That theatre was then under the management of Mr. Younger, a dramatic veteran, and ſtill remembered in

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that part of the kingdom with reſpect; for his pleaſantneſs and liberality. He took Miſs Farren under his own immediate protection, became her tutor, and watched over her with a truly parental ſolicitude. Under ſuch a guardian and preceptor, aided by a quickneſs of perception and a ductile diſpoſition, ſhe ſoon became a promiſing actreſs, and the favourite of the public, not only at Liverpool, but at Shrewſbury, Cheſter, and other places where the corps of Mr. Younger uſually performed.

At length, that worthy man, who had always a lively concern in her welfare and advancement, recommended her to try her fortune in London. Accordingly ſhe came to town in the ſummer of 1777, with a letter from Mr. Younger to the elder Colman, at whoſe theatre ſhe appeared ſhortly after, in the character of Miſs Hardcaſtle, in Goldſmith's comedy of She Stoops to Conquer. That excellent mimic, Edwin, made his firſt appearance the ſame night, in the character of Tony Lumpkin; and the ſame ſeaſon produced alſo that eminent genius the late Mr. Henderſon, a trio of performers ſeldom exhibited together.

Some of the critics of the day, in their obſervations on her performance, blended conſiderable truth with much cynical ſeverity. It may not be unamuſing to quote their remarks: "Miſs Farren's firſt appearance on a London ſtage, appeared the moſt leading figure in this groupe, and from that circumſtance, is entitled to ſome indulgence from the critic pen. Her performance of Miſs Hardcaſtle, though far ſhort of Mrs. Bulkeley, who was the original bar-maid, would not have diſgraced either of our winter theatres. Her perſon is genteel and above the middle ſtature; her countenance full of ſenſibility and capable of expreſſion; her voice clear

but rather ſharp, and not ſufficiently varied; her action not directly aukward; and her delivery emphatic and diſtinct. When Miſs Farren learns to tread the ſtage with more eaſe; to modulate and vary her voice; to correct, inſpirit, and regulate her action; and to give a proper utterance to her feelings, by a ſuitable expreſſion of voice and countenance, in our opinion ſhe will be a moſt valuable acquiſition to our London theatres."

Her reception was very flattering, and the beſt judges of acting at once predicted her future eminence in that line On the 30th of Auguſt following, ſhe played the part of Roſina, in the Spaniſh Barber, which was then performed for the firſt time, and, by her manner of acting, ſhe contributed greatly to the ſucceſs of the piece.

In the enſuing winter ſhe accepted an offer from the managers of Covent Garden theatre, where ſhe played tragedy with the late Mr. Digges; ſo little did they underſtand or examine the real bent of her talents at that time. Not long afterwards ſhe removed to Drury Lane, where alſo ſhe ſtood on the tragic line, though ſometimes a comic character was allotted to her. At length a lucky circumſtance occurred, which brought her into that immediate ſphere, in which ſhe was deſtined by nature to move. Mrs. Abington, the favourite of Thalia and of the town, went from Old Drury to Covent Garden, and left that department, which ſhe had filled with ſo much ſplendour, unoccupied. In this exigence, the proprietors fixed upon Miſs Farren, who ſoon proved, if not ſuperior, yet in moſt reſpects equal to Mrs. Abington. One of the grave cenſors of that time, in his obſervations on this change, has given an opinion which may well be adverted to in this retroſpect.

ſpect. "The deſertion of Mrs. Abington from Drury Lane to Covent Garden theatre, left an open field for the diſplay of Miſs Farren's abilities, of which the public had before entertained great hopes. The taſk, however, was a ſevere one, perhaps too ſevere. The manner of Mrs. A. is not only excellent in itſelf, but the auditors were ſo uſed to it, and remembered it ſo perfectly in each inſtance, where the wit, ſatire, or ſituation was remarkable, that her ſucceſſor muſt have been her ſuperior to have been thought her equal. Truth requires we ſhould ſay, though Miſs Farren has great merit, ſhe was neither; ſhe is yet young, and from the progreſs ſhe made during the firſt ſeaſons of her appearance on the London theatres, we have reaſon to hope, that if ſhe purſues her endeavours to excel, with the ſame ardor ſhe began, ſhe will become the favourite of Thalia, and one of the brighteſt ornaments of the ſtage. Her figure is tall, but not ſufficiently muſcular; were it a little more *en-bon-point*, it would be one of the fineſt the theatre can boaſt. Her eyes are lively, her face handſome, and very capable both of comic and ſentimental expreſſion."

The part which ſhe firſt undertook in the comic line at this theatre, was that of Lady Townley, to which ſhe was directed by that ſagacious judge and excellent performer, Mr. Parſons, for whoſe benefit ſhe played. From that time ſhe took the whole circuit of Mrs. Abington's characters with equal ſucceſs.

The applauſes with which ſhe was favoured by the public, however gratifying, could not equal the ſatisfaction which ſhe muſt have felt at being honoured with the private eſteem of the great and the good. The regularity of her deportment, and the modeſty of

of her diſpoſition, procured her the friendſhip of ſome of the firſt characters in the faſhionable circles. Lady Dorothea Thomſon, and Lady Cecilia Johnſon, admitted Farren in the number of their particular intimates; and by this means it was that ſhe attracted the attention of the Earl of Derby.

All the world knows the circumſtances in which his Lordſhip ſtood with reſpect to his firſt Counteſs; yet nothing but her diſſolution could enable her ſeparated huſband to give his hand to one ſo deſerving of his love. Miſs Farren's profeſſion and origin, and all circumſtances combined with it, as well as his own, would have rendered another ſort of connexion not very offenſive in the eyes of the major part of mankind. But, to the honour of the parties, the breath of calumny could never find occaſion to whiſper a ſingle remark on the ſubject of their intimacy, that might put either of them to the bluſh. As his Lordſhip's knowledge of her character and turn of mind encreaſed, his attachment became more rivetted. It was not the ardour of youthful frolic, or the playfulneſs of a capricious fancy, but a pure, ſenſible love, grounded upon the admiration of principles as well as of perſon, and an aſſurance that in ſuch an union more happineſs was likely to be expected than from one of a more pompous nature.

Though neither his Lordſhip nor Miſs Farren were ſcrupulous to conceal their particular intimacy, they were cautious in the management of it, to give the world no room for cenſorious remark: and it is obſervable, that in all their interviews Mrs. Farren was preſent, who has always reſided with her daughter in every ſtep of her advancement.

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The following teſtimonies of Lord Derby's affectionate eſteem, are too honourable to both perſons to be omitted.

TO MR. HUMPHREYS, THE MINIATURE PAINTER,

ON HIS PORTRAIT OF MISS FARREN.

O THOU, whoſe pencil all the graces guide,
Whom beauty, conſcious of her fadi ȝ bloom,
So oft implores, alas! with harmleſs pride,
To ſnatch the tranſient treaſure from the tomb!

Pleas'd, I behold the fair, whoſe comic art
Th' unwearied eye of taſte and judgment draws;
Who charms with Nature's elegance the heart,
And claims the loudeſt thunder of applauſe.

Such, ſuch alone, ſhould prompt thy pencil's toil;
Of ſerving folly give thy labour o'er;
Fools never will be wanting to our iſle;
Perhaps a FARREN may appear no more.

TO MISS FARREN,

ON HER BEING ABSENT FROM CHURCH.

While wond'ring Angels, as they look'd from high,
Obſerv'd thine abſence with an holy ſigh,
To them a bright exalted Seraph ſaid,
"Blame not the conduct of the exalted maid,
Where 'er ſhe goes, her ſteps can never ſtray,
RELIGION walks companion of her way;
She goes with every virtuous thought impreſt,
HEAVEN on her face, and Heaven within her breaſt."

At

At length, on the death of the late Counteſs of Derby, the way was clear to the perfection of that happineſs which his Lordſhip had ſo long anticipated. Miſs Farren took her farewell of the public at Drury Lane, on the 7th of April, 1797, in the character of Lady Teazle, in the School for Scandal, on which occaſion the houſe literally overflowed, and the curtain dropped amidſt ſuch emotions as never before were witneſſed in any theatre.

On the 8th of May following, ſhe was married to Lord Derby by ſpecial licence, at his Lordſhip's houſe in Groſvernor-ſquare. Soon after, her Ladyſhip was introduced at court, and made one in the proceſſion at the marriage of the Princeſs Royal to the Duke of Wirtemburg. Since that time, this noble pair have ſpent much of their time at their ſeat in the country, where her Ladyſhip is conſidered as a bleſſing by the tenants and the poor. In the privileged orders, among whom her Ladyſhip has been introduced, ſhe is deſervedly reſpected and beloved, as the MOST TRULY NOBLE of her rank.

S. K.

MR. PRATT,

THE intereſting ſubject of our preſent Memoir, was born at St. Ives, in Huntingdonſhire, about the year 1749-50, upon Chriſtmas Day, old ſtyle.

His father was twice, we belive, high ſheriff for that county, and many years in the commiſſion of the peace. He was a gentleman of great worth, good family,

family, and of conſiderably property; and Mr. Pratt's mother was niece to the famous Sir Thomas Drury. Our author was the only ſurvivor of fifteen children, moſt of whom died young.

Mr. Pratt received the rudiments of his claſſical education at Felſtead, a celebrated ſeminary, in Eſſex, in which county were ſituated the family eſtates, and manſion-houſe, the name of which was Rockwood Hall. To this was attached the Manor of Abbots, one of the Nine Roothings, or Roodings. The houſe itſelf is rendered famous in hiſtory, by being the reſidence of the Lord Capels, and for concealing Elizabeth from the rage of her ſiſter Mary, till ſhe was conveyed in ſafety away, by means of a ſubterraneous communication between the private chappel of the manſion and Abbots Rooding Church.

At a very early period of life, our author is ſaid to have proved varieties of fortune, and by one or other of theſe, more eſpecially in a diſappointment of a tender nature, to have been counteracted in as various plans of eſtabliſhment by ſome family differences. To theſe may be traced the origin and progreſs of thoſe misfortunes which overſhadowed the morning of Mr. Pratt's life, and which, indeed, too frequently cloud, not only the proſpects of the ſons and daughters of genius, but impede their future figure and advancement. The embarraſſments brought on by theſe domeſtic grievances, gave a premature check to all attempts, and more than one were tried, of fixing in the liberal profeſſions, in either of which he was unqueſtionably endowed with qualities to become eminent, had not his mind been thus rendered irritable, and trammelled by difficulties; aggravated, perhaps, by the

the impetuous vehemence natural to youth, and more particularly to youthful genius, which threw him upon the world at an age, when, like his own Benignus, (a moſt intereſting character in his firſt work of the novel kind), he was no way calculated to cope with it; no wonder, therefore, if his ſpring of exiſtence was overcaſt, or that many ſucceeding years elapſed before the gloom was diſpelled, ſo as to leave his talents unobſcured, and himſelf free to exerciſe them to his own fame and the public good; or indeed permit them to ſhine in their proper ſphere. Prior, however, to this period, he is known to have experienced not a few reverſes.

Yet whatever inconveniences may individually have ariſen from theſe tranſitions and viciſſitudes, which it would be painful and invidious to detail, the public are probably indebted to them for no ſlight ſhare of their amuſement and gratification during the paſt twenty-five years: few, if any of our Engliſh writers, having contributed more to the ſtock of their literary pleaſure than Mr. Pratt, whoſe numerous writings in favour of philanthropy have now, for a longer ſpace even than that abovementioned, deſervedly ranked him high in the public eſteem, and whoſe productions muſt have had a proportionate effect in diffuſing that delicacy and liberality of ſentiment, and thoſe rich effuſions of fancy, which are no leſs ornamental than beneficial to ſociety.

Mr. Pratt's firſt eſſays in proſe and verſe, were, as is uſual with juvenile writers, diffuſed in private circles amongſt his partial friends and admirers; but the continuation of the domeſtic differences we have alluded to, at length terminated in more ſerious evils conſequent upon family diviſions, including the loſs of a conſiderable part of patrimonial property, and much

much of the remainder was ſquandered amongſt the lawyers, in the progreſs of a long Chancery ſuit.—Theſe events operating on an ardent temper, and a diſappointed mind, directed the pen of our young bard into more public and productive channels, but did not damp the progreſs of his genius. His performances, however, were, for ſome years, either anonymous, or under an aſſumed ſignature. His firſt efforts were made in the monthly publications, where they were ſoon ſufficiently noticed to be copied into various other vehicles, till, ſome years after, ſuch as the author deemed moſt worthy were collected and given to the world in four volumes, under the general title of "Miſcellanies," in which is preſerved his fine poem of "Sympathy," after paſſing through ſix quarto copious editions, with a rapidity equalled in modern times only by the "Traveller" and "Deſerted Village;" the delightful verſification, benevolent ſentiment, and exquiſite imagery of both which, do not ſurpaſs what we meet with in Mr. Pratt's poem.

His firſt-publiſhed poetical work of any length was the "Tears of Genius," occaſioned by the death of Dr. Goldſmith, or, a poetical commemoration of the departed Engliſh bards—a work as happy in the idea as in the execution. The ſtile and ſentiment of each deceaſed poet is caught, and imitated in this production, with ſo much ſpirit and accuracy, that the reader is led to believe they are peruſing tributes to, and epitaphs of, the departed ſons of genius, written by themſelves. This poem, after a very flattering reception in its original form, was, like "Sympathy," preſerved in the "Miſcellanies," and ſtands alſo affixed to a beautiful edition of Dr. Goldſmith's poetical works. Mr. Pratt could not have been more than twenty years of age on the firſt appearance

pearance of this very ingenious performance; prior to which he printed ſome ſmaller pieces of poetry, bearing ſimilar marks of early and advancing genius. Theſe, we believe, were firſt given in a volume of the old Annual Regiſter, publiſhed by Dodſley, while conducted by the celebrated Mr. Burke.

On the death of the Engliſh Roſcius, our author likewiſe offered a poetical tribute to the talents of that great actor, called "The Shadows of Shakeſpeare," in which the different characters in the works of the immortal bard, particularly ſuch as had derived new luſtre from Mr. Garrick's performance, were made to do homage, and addreſs themſelves in character, as they mourned over the tomb of their repreſentative. This ingenious poem is another proof of a happy conception in Mr. Pratt, in ſeizing the ſubject of the moment, and giving it general importance and ſtability. Though the quarto editions are out of print, it is amongſt the number of republications to be ſtill ſeen in the author's "Miſcellanies;" and to that impreſſion is affixed a very beautiful vignette, by Mr. Gardener, diſplaying the "Shadows" doing homage, finely grouped, and habited in their reſpective characters. This poem has frequently been recited on the theatre, and in other public places; and was, we believe, firſt written for the "Bath Eaſton Villa," to which the author was a frequent and ſucceſsful contributor: and, on account of his well-known excellence in reading, wherein he is ſaid to have few equals, not only gave even advantage to his own verſes, but to thoſe of many other votaries of the vaſe.

The next work in the order of publication was the "Sublime and Beautiful of Scripture," which firſt appeared in two volumes, and, after three ſucceſſive editions,

tions, was compriſed in one. It is a kind of commentary and illuſtration of the moſt intereſting and beautiful narratives of the Bible, which are preſented to the reader in the moſt pathetic and attractive manner, and affords a pleaſing example of the author's abilities for literary criticiſm. This little volume is particularly adapted to form a part of education amongſt the Engliſh exerciſes, and might be introduced into our ſeminaries with great advantage.

Thus encouraged by public favour, our author, in 1775, produced a work of a moſt ſingular kind, under the miſcellaneous title of "Liberal Opinions, on Man, Animals, and Providence," which were brought before the public in two volumes, 12mo. at a time, extending in the whole to ſix—the firſt two in 1780; but it has ſince been compriſed in four, and with a ſucceſs which induced the author to lay aſide his fictitious ſignature, and ſtand forth as its avowed writer. "Liberal Opinions" include the adventures of *Benignus*, which, in more than one trait of mind, manners, and misfortunes, has been thought to bear no ſmall reſemblance to its author. This book firſt diſcovered to the public that peculiar facility of delineating character, whether ludicrous or pathetic, which Mr. Pratt has ſince carried to a degree of perfection equalled by few, and ſurpaſſed by no writer whatever, without making an exception in favour of Fielding, Richardſon, or Sterne.

Some critics, however, have pronounced the character of Draper, in the "Liberal Opinions," to be a dangerous picture, ſet off in colours too faſcinating: but, for having too much brightened the reprehenſible qualities of this ſingle object, ample atonement is made, by a variety of other characters, which are here embelliſhed with the love-

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lieſt tintings of virtue and benevolence. Amongſt theſe Mr. Greaves and Benignus are not only to be enumerated with many others as beautiful examples, but may claim a place of honour and admiration beſide the moſt celebrated portraits of the pen: and the poems of the Unfortunate Daughter and of the Highwayman, are each of uncommon beauty and intereſt.

The work next in ſucceſſion of publiſhing, was his well-known "Pupil of Pleaſure," a ſevere but animated illuſtration, and perſonification, of the Earl of Cheſterfield's famous letters; and it would be difficult to ſay, whether the text or the commentary moſt engaged public attention, or, indeed, moſt divided public applauſe and cenſure; many being of opinion they were both equally dangerous, and others aſſerting that the antidote was powerful enough even to expel the poiſon. Several pamphlets, and innumerable eſſays, &c. &c. were at the time publiſhed, by way of ſtricture upon both theſe performances. In the mean time both increaſed in popularity and reputation. The moſt able of the objectors to Mr. Pratt's work, was the amiable and ingenious Clara Reeve, who animadverted on the "Pupil of Pleaſure" with much ſeverity as to its moral, though ſhe admitted the elegance of the ſtyle. Mr. Pratt's book was certainly written with uncommon fervour; but, as it now ſtands in the late editions, does infinite honour to the author's abilities, and merits the eulogy of the critic who pronounced, that "there never was a happier thought, than thus to perſonify Lord Cheſterfield's maxims, and by a natural train of events, in a ſtory that touches every chord of the human heart, demonſtrate the pernicious and fatal tendency of that brilliant caſuiſt." The Reverend Mr. Hunter, alſo, in a ſeries of well written letters

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on thoſe of Lord Cheſterfield, is to be enumerated amongſt the warmeſt advocates and admirers of our author on this occaſion.

If, however, any degree of cenſure may ſtill be thought to attach to the writer of theſe very intereſting volumes, wherein the ſevereſt judgment muſt appreciate the characters of the whole Delmore family, of Fanny Mortimer, and of poor Horace Homeſpun, (whoſe ſenſations on ſeeing and hearing the drops of rain fall heavy on the hearſe of his offending wife, will ever be remembered); he aſſuredly deſerves full credit for removing from all ſucceeding compoſitions every thing, that either in fable, ſentiment, or character, might carry but a poſſibility of being miſrepreſented or miſtaken. His "Tutor of Truth," which ſoon followed, began a proof of this, that has been continued in every performance, whether of proſe or verſe; and though we trace the like felicity of diction, and the ſame ſplendor of fancy, as well as general power over the underſtanding, whatever could prove hoſtile to delicacy or morals of any kind, has been ſtudiouſly avoided. The "Tutor of Truth" was *intended*, indeed, as a *contraſt* to the "Pupil of Pleaſure," or rather the character of Carliſle, in the one, was meant to oppoſe Sedley in the other; how then are we to account for its comparatively inferior ſucceſs? The merit of the ſtory and intereſt of the characters are, upon the whole, nearly equal; and the morality unqueſtionably leſs liable to objections, even if not leſs objectionable in fact.

Be this as it may, our author's Sedley is, what Lord Cheſterfield wiſhed to have ſeen Mr. Stanhope. Since this, Mr. Pratt's productive pen has proceeded in one undeviating progreſs, no leſs chaſte in deſign than beautiful in execution, whatever have been its ſubjects; and

and there are very few in the circle of the *Belles Lettres*, in which it has not, in the unwearied and unwearying courſe of its multifarious labours, preſented us with a ſpecimen of that verſatility of talent for which he is remarkable. His "Obſervations on Dr. Young's Night Thoughts," firſt printed in 1774, diſplay, amidſt ſome juvenilities, and not a few inaccuracies of ſtyle, a ſolid judgment and taſte for criticiſm, as well as on the beauties and defects of poetic compoſition in general, as on the ſublime though very unequal writer in particular, whoſe admirable genius was the object of his remarks. Theſe "Obſervations" were addreſſed to the celebrated Mrs. Montagu, who had, herſelf, long before, eſtabliſhed a never-fading reputation for the critical art, wherein our young author was then only a candidate.

In the year following he gave to the public his ſecond performance of the novel kind, yet of a diſtinct ſpecies from what is ſo called, founded on a benevolent but chimerical ſentiment of Mr. Shenſtone. This elegant poet had hinted at the delight he ſhould have had in building upon an entire neighbourhood, filling it with inhabitants, and then ſettling them according to their rank, feelings, and talents. This Utopian plan Mr. Pratt brought to the teſt in a work which he appropriately entitled "Shenſtone Green," in which he created, peopled, and endowed a village, on the principles the far-famed bard of the Leaſowes had ſketched. Our author, in a truly ingenious manner purſued, and in a literary ſenſe *realized* this idea; and while he proved its fallacy, and ſhewed the impoſſibility of its being carried into execution, in the preſent ſtate of ſociety, makes his readers lament that it is only one of thoſe fairy dreams, which, as Mr. Pope ſays, "beautify our days." The fable and characters employed

ployed by the author in bringing about the pleaſure, population, proſperity, and ultimate deſtruction of this little town, which is ſhewn to be an epitome of the whole aſſociated earth, are extremely diverting in ſome parts, and touching in others; demonſtrating but too plainly on the whole, with what propriety the author, in the ſecond title, has called it the "New Paradiſe Loſt;" and "A Hiſtory of Human Nature."

About this time came forth the charming poem of "Sympathy;" which was immediately received with the diſtinction it deſerved; it ſeemed to aid the ſucceſsful efforts of the muſe-loved Hayley, in reviving the poetic ſpirit, which had drooped and languiſhed ever ſince the death of Goldſmith. This performance was read and ſpoken of in all circles of faſhion and ſcience, as one of uncommon excellence. It was inſcribed to a moſt amiable character, the Rev. Mr. Whalley, author of a ſucceſsful play, entitled "The Caſtle of Montval," lately performed at Drury-lane Theatre.

The heroine was moſt admirably ſuſtained by Mrs. Siddons. "Sympathy" received various honours, prior to, as well as after publication, being introduced to the reſpectable Mr. Cadell, as its publiſher, by the celebrated Gibbon, and uſhered in the ſecond edition, which followed faſt upon the firſt, by complimentary verſes from the valuable pen of Mr. Potter, the Engliſh Æſchylus, with a ſonnet by the very ingenious author of the "Old Engliſh Baron;" and it continues, and will ever continue to afford augmented delight to every render of taſte and ſenſibility, as well as to increaſe the reputation of the author as a poet.

The univerſally admired "Emma Corbet" came forth after the war in America, whoſe woes with thoſe

of the mother country, it ſo affectingly illuſtrates and deſcribes, had raged moſt fiercely. The time, the circumſtances, the ſubject, and the manner of treating it, all helped to make this work extremely popular; and accordingly, there has, perhaps, not been any thing in the language more read. It ſoon reached a ninth impreſſion, and has received every diſtinction both from the pen and pencil. The embelliſhments of Angelica Kauffman prefixed to all the two volume editions, are, though on a ſmall ſcale, amongſt the fineſt ſketches of that captivating artiſt.

The expectations formed by the public of our author's power over the tender paſſions, from the above mentioned performances, and of his poetical abilities from his poem of "Sympathy," were now very high; and it was under theſe favourable impreſſions that he produced his tragedy of the "Fair Circaſſian," founded on the Almoran and Hamet of Dr. Hawkeſworth, the author's private tutor, and the firſt guide of his muſe. It had a run of twenty-ſix nights with ſcarcely any intermiſſion, and, conſidered as a firſt dramatic eſſay, was a very ſucceſsful exertion. Few characters on the Engliſh ſtage ſurpaſs the Eaſtern ſage; but it may be conſidered, on account of the preternatural machinery, rather as a ſpectacle than a regular drama; and while we expreſs our ſurpriſe that the author has not again wooed the tragic muſe, we marvel much, that in theſe times of theatrical pageantry, the piece in queſtion, which had perhaps more than enough of glare and glitter, is not revived. At the ſame time that we allow this production its due ſhare of praiſe, we by no means conſider it equal to ſeveral other of the author's poetical performances.

Shortly afterwards were publiſhed, "Landſcapes in verſe," which, though it falls much below his "Sympathy," had conſiderable ſucceſs and merit.

But

But if he fell ſomewhat ſhort of himſelf in the laſt mentioned performance, the Muſe of Sympathy ſhone forth again with additional luſtre on another occaſion. The intended national tribute of a ſtatue to the memory of the great philanthropiſt, Howard, is well remembered, and amongſt the poetical effuſions which were offered at the ſhrine of unexampled goodneſs, as diſplayed by this extraordinary character, our author contributed his "Triumph of Benevolence," which was ſent anonymouſly as a preſent to the committee appointed to conduct the buſineſs of a ſtatue, as well as the receivers of the money for its erection. The treaſurers publicly expreſſed their acknowledgments to the unknown author, who deſired the profits might be appropriated to the increaſe of the fund; and it was given to almoſt every writer of eminence, before Mr. Pratt put in his claim. It was the intention of the committee to have read this at an anniverſary meeting, and at the baſe of the ſtatue; but the modeſty of Mr. Howard was equal even to his benevolence, and the whole plan came to a ſudden ſtop. The deſign is, nevertheleſs, as honourable to the ſenſibility of the public, as the poem is to Mr. Pratt, whoſe *chef d'œuvre* in poetry this production may be accounted.

In 1788 appeared the firſt quarto edition of "Humanity, or the Rights of Nature." This production may be conſidered as a continuation of "Sympathy," of which it is by no means unworthy, and every reader of taſte and feeling will rejoice with us, that he, who ſo well ſung the "Triumph of Benevolence," has undertaken to vindicate the Rights of Nature, and to inculcate the virtues of "Humanity."

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obſervations which
the title of "Gleanings," firſt
and of which, various large impreſ-
Concerning this performance,
were unanimous in remarking, that the author
exhibited an example of a ſpecies of travellers different
from all thoſe enumerated by Sterne, and that they
could not but highly approve while he purſued this judi-
cious mode, and found ſo many lively and pleaſant ex-
hibitions of manners, ſo many amuſing and intereſting
anecdotes, and ſo many obſervations and reflections,
gay and grave, ſportive and ſentimental (all expreſſed in
a gay and familiar ſtyle), better ſuited to the purpoſe
than ſentences laboured with artificial exactneſs. The
general idea of Wales, in this tour, is beautifully paſ-
toral, and has, perhaps, more contributed to making
that principality the reſort of faſhion and of travellers
of all deſcriptions, and *publiſhing* touriſts alſo, than any
book that had before undertaken to deſcribe that fine
appendage of the Britiſh empire: and we are carried
from thence into Holland, Guelderland, and Weſtpha-
lia, with equal ſucceſs, by this literary magician, who
preſents us, whereſoever he goes, with gleanings for the
heart, and gleanings for the imagination. The ſtories
in this work, whether pathetic or humorous, are of the
firſt order of compoſition, particularly ſuch as are ad-
dreſſed to the fancy or feelings of the reader; ſuch as
the "Two Siſters taking the Veil;" the "Dutch
draft Dogs;" the "Sparrows;" the exquiſite ſtory of
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the "Merchant's Daughter;" the "Old Horſe;" and, above all, the ſtory of the "Bird-catcher, and his Canary," which deſerves to be placed cloſe to Yorick's Starling; with a variety of others of no leſs eſtimation in the eye and to the heart of the reader. In ſhort, Mr. Pratt has here offered to the public, an entertainment as rich as it is various, part of which he has given in an eaſy converſation ſtyle, and all with ſprightlineſs and good humour, excepting the letters, which he addreſſes avowedly to the affections: "and there," ſays the reverend author of the dialogue, "the heart owns him reſiſtleſs." Theſe volumes contain two beautiful ſongs, both of which have been ſet to muſic by eminent hands; alſo a republication of his celebrated poems of "Humanity," and the "Triumph of Benevolence."

The public had not received from Mr. Pratt's pen a novel ſince his "Emma Corbet," between which and "Family Secrets," firſt publiſhed in 1797, elapſed a period of more than ten years. In the firſt edition of the laſt named work, the author denominated it "Literary and Domeſtic," becauſe the ſketches of literary converſation woven into the hiſtory, were intended, he told us, as an *experiment*, how far ſuch a plan might tend to exalt the *character* without diminiſhing the *intereſt* of this ſpecies of compoſition." "A ſale within the year of one of the largeſt editions that has ever been publiſhed of any work of imagination, will not," as Mr. Pratt obſerved, in an advertiſement prefixed to the 2d edition, "be received as evidence of public diſapprobation, but of the exact reverſe; yet, in compliance with a general idea of the work being too much protracted, and the intereſt of the ſtory too much impeded, by means of the literary

and other diſcuſſions, the whole performance appeared under favour of ſuch retrenchments and corrections as either private or public opinion ſuggeſted." In purſuance of this plan of improvement, Mr. Pratt has, with an unſparing hand, acted the part of a critic upon himſelf; ſuch parts of the original work as conſiſted of literary diſquiſition and other diſcuſſions, not immediately appertaining to the ſtory, have therefore been either wholly omitted, or ſo occaſionally retrenched as to render the ſtory more rapid, and the ſucceſſion of events conſequently more intereſting, without at all affecting the original deſign or deranging the parts. The author carefully kept himſelf out of ſight, and made his retrenchments in ſuch a way that a reader of the ſecond edition in 1798, would ſcarcely imagine that the firſt could contain more. The admirers of Emma Corbet, and of theſe various productions which have been enumerated, and which deſervedly procured him an intereſt in all feeling hearts and poliſhed minds, will here find ample cauſe to hail his return; for this is one of thoſe books which faſtens ſo ſtrongly on the attention by its intereſt, that notwithſtanding its length, few readers will prevail on themſelves to lay it down before they have peruſed the whole. In a word, this is the firſt production which we have ſeen of late years, that may be denominated of the *old ſchool*; here is neither ghoſt, goblin nor ſpectre; and it is but juſtice to ſay, that to the moral delicacies of Richardſon, Mr. Pratt has here united much of the humour of Fielding, without any imitation of either. But after all theſe excellencies, which, though chiefly adopted from various criticiſms, we are diſpoſed to admit in their full force, we cannot but think that the performance,

as a work of fancy, might ſtill be compreſſed; for a novel may certainly be as much too ſtrong and powerful, as too weak and flimſy.

We now come to notice the laſt of our author's productions, and certainly not the leaſt in public eſtimation. On the firſt coming out of his former volumes, upon his return to England, there appeared in one of the public prints the following ſtanzas, introduced by a wiſh that Mr. Pratt would no more alienate himſelf to glean foreign lands.

Here amidſt the proud profuſion ſmile,
Admired by genius, and to virtue dear,
Weaving the flowers that bloſſom on our iſle,
And bright'ning ev'ry leaf with pity's tear!

Where merit weeps with "Sympathy" to bleſs,
Where vice aſſails "Humanity" to ſhow
Mirth's dimpled cheek with modeſt ſmiles to dreſs,
And ſnatch from ſorrow's breaſt—the weeds of woe."

With this wiſh of the author of the above verſes Mr. P. ſeems to have complied in the additional volume juſt mentioned, which is entirely a *Harveſt Home*, and to Britiſh readers at leaſt, therefore, the more intereſting —The Author has, in manifold inſtances, ſays a learned critic upon his work, ſhewn himſelf a faithful delineator of his countrymen, and a generous and manly defender of his country, to which his performance is a tribute no leſs valuable than *well-timed*. This may fairly be ſaid of the *political* feature of the picture; the *natural* one preſents the iſland in a warm diſplay of its ſcenic beauty: while thoſe lineaments which are coloured by the affections, and which give the *mind* of the country, are pourtrayed with the hand both of a painter and of a poet. The right chord of the heart is often touched in the right place;

place; and the ſmiling remark is judiciouſly brought in to chaſe away the tear produced by any of the more pathetic narratives. The gleaner has our cordial aſſent to proceed in *the like manner*, till he himſelf, after, we hope yet a long journey, arrive at that place "from whoſe bourn no traveller returns". The direction which Mr. Pratt has taken in this leading volume, is the county of Norfolk, which may indeed be conſidered as a ſtriking *likeneſs* in a *miniature*, appreciated for its unaffected appeals to the beſt affections of our nature, its happily arranged inferences, and the general inquiry it excites, as much as for the local information with which it abounds.

The letters on criticiſm are certainly not inferior in energy or utility, to any in the book; at once playful and ſerious, and exhibiting equal judgment and delicacy. It is, indeed, a trembling ſubject, treated with great addreſs. And the poems of the "Summer Tribute to Nature," and the "Addreſs to the Sea," the one remarkable for ſoftneſs, the other for ſublimity, are *chef d'œuvres*.

Mr. Pratt has always avowed a diſinclination to engage in the heats of party, on either ſide, yet has invariably ſhewn himſelf to be a warm friend to the good order of that ſocial compact, by which all men are bound to their native country; and on particular national emergencies he has come forward with ſome well-timed and temporary public offering. In 1797, when our naval diſputes ran fearfully high, appeared a letter from Mr. Pratt to the "Tars of Old England." This very animated addreſs to the Britiſh ſeamen, upon their lamentable and unexampled mutiny, which is now almoſt forgotten in their glory, poſſeſſes great merit. It breathes all the energy and ſpirit of true patriotiſm; and ſpeaks a language

language which muſt affect every heart not wholly corrupted by the poiſon of inſubordination. This ran through ſix editions in a leſs number of weeks. In the ſame year came out a letter to the "Britiſh Soldiers," by the ſame author, in which he has ſtrengthened the reproof which he diſpenſed to the ſeduced ſailors, by the judicious panegyric which he has here beſtowed upon the unſullied purity of the military character.

It became a ſort of faſhion for literary people of both ſexes, to contribute pamphlets and books on national ſubjects, and diſtribute them gratis; of this plan we believe Lord Carliſle and Hannah More, were the firſt projectors. Our author contributed a ſmall tract, entitled "Our good old Caſtle on the Rock," intended to prove that a ſpirit of general union which may concentre the hands and hearts of the nation againſt a common enemy, is the only way to make "Our good old Caſtle on the Rock" impregnable. It is elegant, and yet eaſy to every underſtanding.

Mr. Pratt is alſo author of various impromptus, &c. on temporary ſubjects, particularly a very beautiful inſcription engraved on the monument lately erected in Weſtminſter-Abbey, to the memory of Mr. Garrick, finely executed by Webber.

It remains only to be ſaid, that the virtues are not indebted to Mr. Pratt for his *writings* only: his *life* has been conſtantly diſtinguiſhed by an uniform practice and ſupport of the moſt amiable qualities; and the writer of this article cannot cloſe it, without feeling it a duty of gratitude to ſtate in his own perſon, and to atteſt for many others, that Mr. Pratt's diſpoſition to benevolence keeps pace with his beautiful deſcriptions of it; and that, impelled to the practice of the ſympathy and humanity ſo touchingly painted in almoſt every production of

his

his pen, he has often been led to a more full tide of good offices to the unfortunate of every denomination, than the dictates of severe prudence might sanction. J.

DOCTOR HARRINGTON,

OF BATH.

THIS highly respected gentleman is descended from an ancient and illustrious family, not more distinguished by the smiles of fortune, than by superior intellectual possessions; an interesting account of which may be found in a publication of the Doctor's in 1768, entitled the "Hugo Antiques," being a collection of letters written by his ancestors and their correspondents, in the reigns of the 7th and 8th Henry's, Mary and Elizabeth, Edward the 6th, James the 1st, and Charles the 1st, in four vols. replete with original information and merit. Sir John Harrington, from whom the Doctor more immediately descends, was the son of Mr. Harrington, who married a natural daughter of Henry the 8th, with whom the King gave as dower, the forfeited church lands of Kelston, Catharine, part of Bath-Easten, and Corston, upon which, it is said, he built at Kelston the largest house at that time in Somersetshire. He was a great favourite of Queen Elizabeth's, whom he attended in the tower during the reign of her infatuated and sanguinary sister Mary. She stood godmother for Sir John, his elder son, who also became a favourite, from his ready wit, pleasantry, and learning He was esteemed the best English epigram writer of that age, and when very young displayed much ingenuity and judgment

ment in a tranſlation of Arioſto, the only one of that beautiful poet till Mr. Hoole's, which appeared ſome years ſince, and though certainly poſſeſſed of much merit, is by no means comparable to Sir John's, to whom, indeed, Mr. Hoole ſeems much indebted for aſſiſtance.—James Harrington, another anceſtor of the Doctor's, rendered himſelf conſpicuous in the literary world, by the ſo juſtly celebrated Oceana, which is inſerted in the preface of the Hugo Antiques." Indeed Genius ſeems to have had *many* favourites in this family, and the world will certainly allow that his ſmiles have been continued to the worthy ſubject of this memoir, whoſe delicately enriched taſte, and ſuperior knowledge in the enchanting ſcience of muſic, have ſo often and ſo juſtly been the theme of public admiration.*

Doctor Harrington was born on Michaelmas day, 1727, at Kelſton, Somerſetſhire. He received his education in his father's houſe, under the tuition of the late Rev. Dr. Fothergill, father of the preſent Vicar of Twerton, and brother

* The Doctor has in his poſſeſſion, ſome good pictures, and a curious collection of family and other portrait,, uncommonly well preſerved, to the reigns of Henry 7th and 8th Queen Elizabeth, James Iſt, and Charles Iſt. He has an original picture of Queen Elizabeth, when Princeſs, in the tower, and of Etheldred Tudor Harrington, natural daughter of Henry the 8th; alſo a portrait of Lord Leiceſter and Eſſex, originals, and two of the handſomeſt of Queen Elizabeth's maids of honour, in their curious apparel in which they appeared at court on the Queen's birth-day: They were rival beauties, and, on the Queen's giving her preference to the beauty of one of them, the other is ſaid to have died of grief and envy.

The Doctor has alſo a family ſeal, the date of the year 1279, it belonged to Robertus Dominus de Haverington, Cumberland.

King James the Firſt ſent for the Doctor's anceſtor Sir John Harrington, to Court, to converſe with him, as he heard he was a great wit, Sir John," ſaid the ſuperſtitious King, "what do you think is the reaſon why the devil deals with old women, ſo that they become witches?" "Pleaſe your Majeſty," replied the Knight, "I humbly think it is becauſe the devil delights to walk in dry places."

The King talked (much to him on theological ſubjects, and told him when he left him, "that as he had heard Sir John's wit, Sir John had alſo heard the King's learning, and bid him report it favourably."

brother to the late Provoſt of Queen's College, Oxford. His father's affairs being much embarraſſed, his elder brother was prevailed on to dock the entail of the Kelſton eſtate, an act that ultimately proved ruinous to the whole family, for it might, on account of the Doctor's minority, have been preſerved to the preſent family, his brother having died ſhortly after the buſineſs was effected. At this time the Doctor was received by his uncle, William Harrington, Vicar of Kingſton, in Wilts, and under his patronage, entered at Queen's College, Oxford, in the year 1745. During the vacations, he lived with his uncle, a man every way calculated to diffuſe knowledge and create emulation: and it is moſt probable that the Doctor derived much of that elegance, taſte, and judgment, which has ſo conſpicuouſly ſhone in his compoſitions, from him. He was highly celebrated for his acquirements in the ſciences of muſic, poetry, and mathematics; and being a valetudinarian, and his ſight much impaired, he often employed his nephew to read to him, a circumſtance, that though it muſt have been extremely profitable to his mind, muſt alſo, at times, have been conſidered as a laborious taſk; for ſuch was the greedineſs of his uncle's appetency for learning and information, that he would frequently make him read all night, and commonly till two or three in the morning, not liking to go bed before daylight.

It was in his uncle's houſe, and at the age of eighteen or nineteen, that he compoſed the univerſally admired duo of "Damon and Clora." He reſided there eight years, during which time he often amuſed himſelf in writing poetry, chiefly light compoſitions. About that time there ſubſiſted a ſtrong rivalſhip between the two Bath theatres, and the Doctor favoured them with ſeveral excellent

ceſſent prologues, epilogues, &c. ſome of which were ſpoken by the preſent inimitable actor, Thomas King, at the theatre then under the old aſſembly rooms. The managers preſented him with a free admiſſion ticket to both houſes, as a ſmall teſtimony of their high opinion of his talents, which they conſidered of great importance to themſelves.

During his reſidence at Kingſton, he publiſhed an "Ode to Harmony," elegant in its compoſition, and intended as a tribute of gratitude to his uncle and aunt, for their exemplary care and attention, and alſo as a compliment to the uninterrupted affection in which they had lived for a number of years, and in which he had long participated and delighted.

Shortly after this, and by way of contraſt, he publiſhed an "Ode to Diſcord," prefaced with the following line,

"Bombatio, clangor, ſtridor, taratantara, murmure."

With theſe, he printed the admired poem of the "Witch of Wokey;" a little piece of ſuch infinite merit, that, on being read by the editor of a collection of fugitive, anonymous poems, (printed a few years ago) it was ſelected, and again given to the public, with a note, that it had been *altered* by the celebrated Gray, author of the Church Yard Elegy. With the admiration of an enthuſiaſt for the poetic powers of Mr. Gray, we cannot but obſerve, that, if the alterations are his, they are certainly not *improvements*. On the contrary, wherever he has changed a word, he has robbed it of a *beauty*. It is at this time very rare to be met with, we ſhall, therefore, from a conviction of its gratifying our readers, refer them to Dr. Percy's Relics of Ancient Poetry, in the ſecond volume

volume of which beautiful collection, it will be found, together with ſome other of our author's ingenious performances.

In the year 1748 the Doctor took his batchelor's degrees, and much about the ſame time gave up his intention of taking orders, (the only motive for which was, the ſmall living of Kelſton, which would become the preſentation of his father, after the death of the incumbent, Archdeacon Huddleſton, who married his aunt) and commenced the ſtudy of phyſic, in which purſuit he was encouraged by one of his uncles, at that period the moſt eminent phyſicians in Bath, yet it was only the encouragement of *words*; for, though he was a man empowered, both by fortune and fame, to introduce his amiable relative with eclat to the world, in his profeſſional character, it is a lamentable truth, that his actions towards him were niggardly and illiberal; for, even when declining health made it neceſſary to have an aſſiſtant, he preferred a ſtranger to his nephew, though from his very great celebrity, there could have been little doubt of its eſtabliſhing the young gentleman's medical reputation, and ſecuring to him (in caſe of death) the entire practice of his uncle We are wholly at a loſs to account for this depravity of heart in the man who firſt introduced him to ſtudy medicine; nor is it neceſſary to offer any comment, every *juſt* mind will feel the only one that can be made on ſuch a circumſtance.

Dr. Harrington remained at Oxford till he took his degree of maſter of arts. His college tutor was Dr. George Fothergill, of whom he ſpeaks in the higheſt terms of praiſe, and grateful affection. He ſays, "he was an excellent ſcholar, a ſound logician, a nervous writer, and the beſt of men; one whoſe gentleneſs of mind and manners

hers made his pupils not only reſpect him as their tutor, but love him as their friend!" The Doctor did all poſſible honour to his abilities and attentions. He left the college with the reputation of being one of the firſt claſſical ſcholars, and rich in every ſpecies of information neceſſary to the man of letters and complete gentleman: yet he was more indebted to a highly gifted underſtanding, (which could, in a moment, ſee and comprehend all things), than to intenſe ſtudy, of which he was by no means fond, and would often ſay with the bard, that

> "Study is like the heaven's glorious ſun,
> That will not be deep ſearch'd with ſaucy looks;
> What have continual plodders ever won,
> Save baſe authority from other books?"

He poſſeſſed too much genius to borrow ideas from any man, and felt a pride in being one of the *few* who could think for themſelves. But though he was not exactly a *book-worm*, he was certainly what the world calls *well read*, and was alſo a man of ſtrong judgment, and exquiſite taſte, of which he has ſince given the world various proofs. At a very early age, he diſcovered ſuch a thorough knowledge of mathematics, metaphyſics, muſic, and poetry, as aſtoniſhed his fellow collegians, and created no ſmall degree of jealouſy in their minds; many felt aſhamed of their inferiority to a *weſt country boy* (as they called him); for, at that time, Queen's College was chiefly inhabited by gentlemen from the northern counties of Weſtmoreland and Cumberland, famous for ſhrewdneſs of intellect, as well as perſevering application, and it was not a little mortifying to find themſelves ſurpaſſed in learning by one who ſeemed to take no particular pains about it.

He

He was fond of mechanical arts, and displayed much ingenuity in the construction of several mathematical instruments he made for his own use: in short, his genius was universal, he knew something of every thing, and whatever he undertook was always successfully accomplished. He was well acquainted with astronomy; but his favourite study and amusement was that enchanting science, whose dulcet charms have power

"To soothe the savage breast,
To soften rocks, and bend the knotted oak."

And though very young and *self-taught*, he was well known, and much admired in the musical world for the delicacy and sweetness of his compositions, and also for his superior taste and execution on the flute. He played the harpsichord, but only to set his music; it was not his favourite instrument; he never performed on it in public.

The celebrated Dr. Hays, of Oxford, father of the late Doctor of that name, founded a club of *gentlemen musicians*, vocal and instrumental, none of whom were permitted to perform, unless they could play and sing at sight. If any gentleman committed a blunder, he was not allowed to continue his performance that evening; and, in order to have them perfect in their different parts, Dr. Hays gave each a bill of the next night's entertainment. By adhering to these rules, this charming society met for many years in *true harmony*. Dr. Harrington soon became a principal ornament to it, and felt delighted in the opportunity it afforded him to become acquainted with the learned and ingenious Dr. Hays, whose friendship he possessed to the end of his life. He often mentions this musical association with pleasure, and regrets that there are no longer any

thy ſuch; yet it is by no means wonderful, ſince we find the gentlemen of the preſent day more inclined to derive amuſement from the exertions of profeſſional men (the number of whom are increaſed ten to one) than their own, where it requires (as in muſic) ſo much labour to attain any degree of excellence; and indeed, if we conſider how many claims the world has upon the time of men of faſhion and fortune, it will no longer appear a matter of ſurprize, that very few, ſo circumſtanced, become *proficients* in any of the ſciences, at the ſame time we muſt remark, with infinite ſatisfaction, the very great and liberal encouragement they give to thoſe, whoſe talents and induſtry merit diſtinction and reward.*

* A catch club, of which the Doctor has been a principal member, had been eſtabliſhed at Bath, for ſeveral years, at the White Lion, was removed a few years ſince to the White Hart Inn. About four years ago Mr. Rauzzini, who has, with much talent and liberality, conducted the concerts at Bath above twenty years, had the preceding year loſt conſiderably by conducting that concert. A meeting was held by the ſubſcribers, in order to prevent ſuch a circumſtance from happening again the following year; when twelve gentlemen, of large fortune, agreed to undertake the concert that year, and, if there ſhould prove a deficiency, to defray the expences out of their pockets. This was all well, and liberal enough, had they ſtopt there; but ſome of them, who came forward (as it ſhould appear from motives of vanity, and who were members of the Catch Club), ſoon after began to think that they might poſſibly be a few pounds out of pocket at the end of the ſeaſon, if the Catch Club continued that winter. They accordingly contrived to get a meeting of ſome of the ſubſcribers, and voted no Catch Club for that ſeaſon! Doctor Harrington, who was not conſulted, was diſpleaſed at what he juſtly called the mean conduct of theſe parſimonious regulators. He therefore, rallied his friends and acquaintance to hold a meeting to totally annihilate the old club, and to create another, under the name of the Harmonic Society. This was effectually carried into execution and new rules eſtabliſhed to put this ſociety upon an infinitely better footing than the old Catch Club; it was more liberal, more extenſive, and yet much leſs expenſive. The number of ſubſcribers were ſoon very great; but ſtill they were ſelect, as none but gentlemen of character were propoſed and balloted for. Thus many *diſagreeables* were for ever cut off from this ſociety. It is now the beſt muſical ſociety in England; and has the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, and many of the firſt nobility and gentry, members of it. The Doctor contributes much to the harmony of the ſociety, by introducing his own new compoſitions; and has the pleaſure of hearing his old compoſitions performed in the beſt manner. This ſociety meets every Friday, during the winter and ſpring

The Doctor has, through life, been a warm and generous patron to all men of muſical talents. His own are unequaled even by the profeſſion—a truth that muſt be *felt* by every lover of taſte, elegance, expreſſion, and delicacy; charms that highly characterize all his compoſitions, which, though ſo various, are, like the characters of the immortal Shakeſpear, all *original*. An anthem which the Doctor compoſed for thirty-ſix voices, is, perhaps, one of the richeſt ſpecimens of genius and ſcientific knowledge that has ever appeared ſince the productions of the ſublime Handel, to which alone it is inferior. He has alſo favoured the public with many other anthems, hymns, &c. ſo truly beautiful, and ſo juſtly approved, that they are performed in many places of divine worſhip. As a profound judge, the Doctor is an enthuſiaſtic admirer of the above incomparable compoſer, and was deeply offended with the celebrated and ingenious Rauzzini for remarking that "Handel was a good *German* muſician enough, but the Italians have *many* Handels." And he very warmly replied, "Not *all* the muſicians that Italy ever boaſted, put together, could produce the celeſtial harmony of *his* choruſſes." The Doctor's favorite ſtyle of compoſition, and that in which he excels moſt, is the tender and pathetic. Many of his ſongs, trios, elegies, &c. poſſeſſing all that ſweet ſoft witching of melody that ſinks deep into the heart, and gently proves, that

"Muſic *is* the food of love."

ſpring months; and every member has the privilege of bringing a friend. There is a cold ſupper, and much conviviality after. When ſupper is finiſhed, the old grace is ſung of *non nobis Domine*, which the Doctor always accompanies on the harpſichord. This firſt toaſt that is drank is (by a rule enacted), "Doctor Harrington, the founder of the Harmonic Society."

And

And his poetry according with his notes, gives us to believe such is his opinion. Amongst several, whose beauty makes it difficult to select any one with preference, may be mentioned, in illustration of this idea, the universally and *justly* admired one of;

"How sweet is the pleasure; how great the delight,
"When soft love and harmony together unite." &c.

The Doctor has also displayed much comic humour in some of his productions; and his "Old Thomas Day" (so inimitably executed by the late celebrated Edwin, of Covent Garden); "Give me the sweet Quaker's Wedding;" "The stammering Song;" and, "The Alderman's Thumb;" have each contributed to his popularity and fame!!!

As a medical character, he has ever been highly respected. He first practised at Wells, in Somersetshire, in the year 1753; whither he went, on his quitting Oxford and marrying the amiable and accomplished Miss Musgrave, with the hope of success, as at that time there was no other physician there. However, after a few years, he found the advantages by no means adequate to the inconveniences attending the situation, and he removed to Bath, where he has continued to practise with private emolument and public honour. His disposition is humane and benevolent; and he is equally loved and respected by all ranks of people. He is at this time Physician to His Royal Highness the Duke of York, and many of the first nobility.*

About

*The Doctor for many years attended the Dowager Lady Trevor, relict of Lord Trevor, and last surviving daughter of the famous Sir Richard Steele. The Doctor speaks of this Lady as possessing all the wit,

About four years ſince, Doctor Harrington received the office of Chief Magiſtrate of Bath, much to the ſatisfaction of his fellow citizens, and has ever been found indefatigable in his magiſterial capacity as one of the juſtices.

Doctor Harrington's philanthropy and charity is unbounded; and his humanity to the brute creation extended to ſo great a degree, that he has left in his will one guinea per annum for an annual ſermon, to enforce the practice of humnity to brute animals.

The Bath Humane Society, whether conſidered in point of rank and number of its members, or of the entertainments it weekly affords, is confeſſedly the firſt inſtitution of the kind that is at preſent in this kingdom. The Doctor is the *father* and founder of this ſociety, and *his* health is one of the only three toaſts which are given in the room.

Y. Z.

THE DUCHESS OF GORDON.

IN every rank of ſociety, many are the creatures of imitation; they think and act leſs from their own judgment and choice than from the examples of thoſe whom they propoſe to themſelves as models. It

wit, humour, and gaiety of her father, together with moſt of his faults. She was extravagant, and always in debt; but ſhe was generous, charitable, and humane. She was particularly partial to young people, whom ſhe frequently entertained moſt liberally, and delighted them with the pleaſantry and volubility of her diſcourſe. Her perſon was like that which her pleaſant father deſcribes of himſelf in the Spectator, with his ſhort face, &c. &c. A little before her death (which was in the month of December) ſhe ſent for her Doctor; and, on his entering her chamber, he ſaid, "How fares your Ladyſhip?' She replied, "Oh! my dear Doctor, ill fare! I am going to break up before the holidays!". This agreeable lady lived many years in Queen's Square, Bath, and, in the ſummer months, at St Ann's Hill, Surry, the preſent reſidence of the Right Honourable Charles James Fox.

It is, therefore, of the higheſt importance in any circle of ſociety, that the perſon who gives the tone to its opinions, manners, and purſuits, ſhould be ſuch as beſt to promote its moſt beneficial and agreeable purpoſes. Faſhion is cloſely interwoven with morals and with politics. The purſuits and manners which ſhe preſcribes, powerfully influence private integrity, public patriotiſm and loyalty. In no circle does that imitation, whoſe influence we have already remarked, operate more powerfully than in high life, and by none are people of that condition more directed than by the Ducheſs of Gordon. That this is the fact, all thoſe who are acquainted with that rank in ſociety will readily bear teſtimony. We hope therefore, it will not be unacceptable to our readers to preſent to them the principal features of this lady's hiſtory and character, to mark their operation, the influence it has procured her, and the effects which it has produced.

Sir William Maxwell, Bart. of Monreith, in the county of Lanerk, in Scotland, had a large family both of ſons and daughters. Of the young ladies, Jane, born in 1750, was one. As they grew up, the Miſſes Maxwell were diſtinguiſhed for beauty and intelligence. The influence produced by the one was ſecured by the other; for both perſonal and mental qualifications, Miſs Jane was peculiarly diſtinguiſhed. She was eminent for agility and grace in the performance of thoſe exerciſes which diſplay beauty and ſymmetry on the one hand; and for the gaiety, ſpirit, and brilliancy of humour and wit, which ſo agreeably ſet off acute and vigorous underſtanding, on the other. At ſeventeen years of age ſhe captivated the affections of the young Duke of Gordon, then juſt

come

come of age, and listening to his addresses, became, October 18, 1767, Duchess of Gordon.

In this station, the agreeable, amiable, and impressive qualities of her Grace, which had before procured her the esteem and admiration of the Caledonian capital, and all those within the circle of her acquaintance, greatly extended the sphere of her influence. Henceforward, those talents and qualities more and more unfolded themselves, which have rendered her a BRITISH PUBLIC CHARACTER. She was eminently distinguished for her engaging deportment, for being the life and soul of elegant parties, especially those met for festive amusement. Her sallies of wit enlivened the table, her precepts and example animated the ball-room. She was peculiarly skilled and successful in gladdening life, in diffusing delightful feelings. Wherever she presided, either directly or indirectly, to no member of the company was genial attention wanting. She had the power of making all persons within the sphere of her actions pleased with themselves; a power that in an individual must result from the union of disposition to prompt, with discernment to perceive different cases, and judgment to direct the conduct accordingly. It is not surprising that, so disposed and qualified, her Grace was extremely popular. The writer of this article remembers, that in 1777, he one evening happened to be at an inn at Blair, in Athol, near Athol-house, a seat of the Duke of that name; he had hardly arrived when a large party of country gentlemen, with all of whom he was well acquainted, came to the inn from his Grace's mansion; one of their fellow-guests had been the Duchess of Gordon. Her charms, her attention, her manners, her accomplishments were the theme of universal praise for several hours, and were returned with equal warmth

in

in the morning. Converſing with the youngeſt gentleman in the company, but whom he knew to be poſſeſſed of very vigorous talents and penetrating diſcernment, "Pray, Charles," ſaid the writer, "what appears to you to be her Grace's ſecret for enrapturing your father, and all our worthy friends?" "Careful forbearance of her diſplay of ſuperiority of rank in the diſtribution of her attentions; no marked conſideration of that diverſity in others, when met together at the ſame table; giving every one an opportunity of ſpeaking on a ſubject on which he ſuppoſed he could ſpeak well: not all her engaging qualifications made ſuch an impreſſion on my father, as a converſation in which he was enabled to bring forward his favourite opinions on planting trees and potatoes, as moſt beneficial both to gentlemen and the poor. His good neighbour was no leſs captivated by her Grace's diſcourſe with him on ſheep-farms. "You may depend upon it," continued the young gentleman, "that her underſtanding and manners, independent of her face, countenance and figure, will ſecure to her an aſcendancy in any particular company, in which ſhe happens to be placed, as well as the general circle in which ſhe moves*."

At Athol houſe her Grace firſt ſaw Neil Gow, the father of the preſent Scotch ball muſic. To this circumſtance may be traced the origin of the introduction of Scotch dancing into the faſhionable word, which art the Meſſrs. Jenkins, father and ſon, have brought to its preſent perfection. Her Grace, pleaſed with the exquiſite

* Some remark was made at table concerning the cork rumps then in faſhion, eſpecially among ladies, to whom nature had been malignant in certain perſonal charms. Her Grace, who was not in that predicament, declared ſhe would never encourage ſuch adventitious aids.

quiſite performance of the Athol muſician, propoſed to him to attend at Leith races, of which ſhe was to be a ſpectator the following week. Admiring Neil's ſtyle of performance, ſhe thought no leſs highly of his compoſitions as peculiarly adapted to the native dances of Scotland. One of his productions, though of too plaintive a caſt to prompt the active movements of the Strathspey and reel, yet attracted her Grace's notice, from the taſte, genius, and feelings which it exhibited. Though Neil Gow's fame, before the patronage of her Grace, was chiefly provincial, yet where his merit was known it was held in very high eſtimation. One of his moſt liberal and munificent patrons was Mr. Moray, of Abercairney, a gentleman of great fortune and diſtinction, father-in-law to the late eminent Sir William Erſkine. Mr. Moray having died about two months before the period at which we are arrived, Neil Gow, in remembrance of his deceaſed benefactor, compoſed a delicate and pathetic melody, exhibiting at once, the melancholy of gratitude for ever deprived of its object, and a juſt and vigorous conception of the tones beſt adapted to the expreſſion of paſſion. This piece of muſic was then, for the firſt time, performed from the orcheſtra of Neil's patron, the Duke of Athol, to the exquiſite delight of the company, and eſpecially of that illuſtrious gueſt who is the ſubject of our narrative. She thenceforward patronized Neil, and under her protection Scotch muſic began to riſe towards the deſerved eminence.

The popularity of her Grace ſhe employed in benefiting her country. When the diſcomfiture of Burgoyne's army rendered extraordinary exertions neceſſary, and loyal and patriotic individuals promoted the public ſervice by raiſing regiments, the Gordon family were among the firſt

to

to offer their aſſiſtance. Her Grace, conſcious of the influence which ſhe had acquired among all ranks, determined to employ it in promoting ſo laudable a purpoſe. In the very depth of winter, when the gay and ſplendid ſeaſon of London was juſt beginning; when arrangements were making for the elegant parties and feſtive enjoyments of high life, the fair ſubject of our narrative left the metropolis, and ſet out for the cold regions of the Highlands. The preſence of a lady, whoſe affability, condeſcenſion, and goodneſs, they regarded with ſuch gratitude and admiration, inſpiring the gallant mountaineers, the corps was ſoon completed. This ſpeedy formation of a body of volunteers by one great family, afforded a ſtriking contraſt to the difficulty which another, at the ſame time, experienced from the adoption of compulſory meaſures. Indeed the different influence of the two families in queſtion, in countries of by no means diſſimilar manners and ſentiments, is a very prominent inſtance of the impolicy of haughty demeanor and repulſive pride in perſons of rank, if they ſeek influence and power, and the ſound wiſdom of an agreeable and engaging deportment.

Her Grace having heard of practices that were carried on in a certain part of Scotland, very inconſiſtent with the rights of Britiſh ſubjects—for inſtance, confining poor men in cellars, to compel them to *inliſt* as ſoldiers, although there was no act in force at that period of the war that permitted involuntary levies; when ſhe came to London ſometime after, mentioned *that mode of recruiting!* One day ſhe happened to be at a route, where Mr. Fox was preſent, when ſhe related to the company an anecdote ſhe had heard. It ſeems, in the regiment, of which part had been levied in the manner

ner we have above mentioned, there was a good deal of contumacy in learning the diſcipline. It happened at drilling, that a ſerjeant was very ſeverely beating a poor fellow near a town through which her Grace had to paſs in her way to the ſouth. On enquiring what crime had drawn upon the ſufferer ſuch ſeverity—"No crime at all, pleaſe your Ladyſhip," replied the ſerjeant, "this is the way in our corps of making *volunteers*."—Her Grace, in reciting this ſtory, expreſſed ſuch ſentiments as humanity would dictate on ſuch a ſubject, and added ſome obſervations concerning the *cellars*. Mr. Fox hearing this ſhort narrative, with the accompanied remarks, immediately declared that the conduct of the *principal* in *this ſpecies** of recruiting, demanded a ſerious enquiry, which he would ſet about inſtituting. Her Grace intreated him not to proceed on her information, and before he had time or opportunity to inveſtigate the truth through other channels, other public buſineſs interfered and prevented the reconſideration of the cellar adventures.

His Grace the Duke of Gordon employed much of his time in the country, in ſuperintending the building of a very large and magnificent houſe. That undertaking, together with the ſtyle in which her Grace's rank in ſociety, and ſituation in the faſhionable world obliged

* So much of feudal notions then prevailed among the Scotch peaſantry, that many of them did not immediately perceive the injuſtice of ſuch compulſion. The great man in queſtion appeared to have himſelf entertained an opinion, that he had the diſpoſal of the ſervices of his tenants, and indeed of all poor men who had not power or ſpirit to defend their own rights. A gentleman of ability, property, and an independant mind in the neighbourhood, gave him a different leſſon, as indeed did a peaſant who had received part of his education in England; and beſides having imbibed ſentiments of conſtitutional liberty, had learned the art of boxing, which he could exerciſe with the more effect, as he was above ſix feet high and ſtrongly made. The leſſons of this *preceptor* were not without their uſe; the greater, as the grandee hardly ever ſtudied any other.

obliged her to live, cauſed an accumulation of expence, which, notwithſtanding the extenſive and productive eſtates of the family, involved them in ſome temporary difficulties. An arrangement, however, was made, by which it was aſcertained, that the embarraſſments would not be permanent. With great and exemplary merit, theſe noble perſonages ſubmitted to a reduction of eſtabliſhments and retrenchments of expenditure. For ſeveral years, the ſum to which they limited themſelves for ſo laudable a purpoſe, was very ſmall indeed, for their rank and dignity; but even then, as always, her Grace was among the moſt prominent characters of the faſhionable world. When ſhe was later than uſual in coming to town, the common complaint among ladies of faſhion was, "How dull the town is! Would to heaven the Ducheſs of Gordon were arrived! We ſhall have no life, no ſpirit, till ſhe come."

The great increaſe of rents, on the expiration of leaſes, and diminution of incumbrances from rigid adherence to their œconomical plan, brought their income nearer to its former ſtandard, and her Grace now ſpent the uſual time at London. While ſhe had ſuch weight in the faſhionable world, ſhe was ſtrictly attentive to domeſtic duties. On the education of her daughters, five in number, ſhe beſtowed great pains, directed by the ſoundeſt judgment; taking a comprehenſive view of the relation in ſociety in which they ſtood and were deſtined to ſtand; her object was to make them amiable, accompliſhed, and worthy, a taſk not difficult, as they were beautiful, lovely, and intelligent, but which, without ſkill and wiſdom, even with theſe natural advantages, might not have been performed. Among the external accompliſhments, on which

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ſhe laid the greateſt ſtreſs, was dancing; as contributing to health, agility, and grace. The Ducheſs, who was and is herſelf an admirable performer, became more and more attached to Scotch dancing, and the appropriate muſic, as being more conformable to the Britiſh character than French. Under her patronage, the ſons of her old protegee, Neil Gow, firſt received that encouragement and attention, which, by making their merits known, rendered their muſic ſo generally attractive. The Ducheſs obſerved that the Meſſrs. Gow, to the natural genius of their father, ſuperadded taſte and ſcience, and ſoftened the wild vivacity of highland muſic, without materially deviating from its character. She wiſhed a correſponding improvement might take place in dancing. To effect this object was reſerved for the ingenious Mr. Jenkins. On the agility and accurate meaſures of the highland ſteps, that gentleman ſuperinduced grace; his improvement in dancing being analogous to that of the Gows in ball muſic. Her Grace took Mr. Jenkins under her patronage, and was firſt the means of that recommendation to the public, which his own efforts, and thoſe of his ſon, improving in effect, as principle, became aſcertained by experience, and art was perfected by practice. The character of that delightful exerciſe, as patronized by the Ducheſs of Gordon, is eaſe without negligence, exactneſs without ſtiffneſs, elegance and grace without pomp or oſtentation. This amuſement became extremely faſhionable, and by occupying the time, formerly too often beſtowed on very ruinous purſuits, produced a change by no means unimportant in the faſhionable world. Her Grace was the firſt who brought forward muſic and dancing at routs, and thus entrenched on the hoſtile provinces

of

of gaming. Monymuſk was heard inſtead of the dice-box, Lough Erich Side took up the attention that would have been beſtowed on vingt-un; reels and Strathſpeys took the place of rouge et noir and faro; round games were abandoned for country dances. If the glow of hilarity tends more to beauty than anxiety, avarice or rage; if a fine young woman appear to more advantage interweaving in the animating dance, than with her whole ſoul wrapt up in the odd trick; if active exerciſe be more healthy than ſedentary employment; if it is better to enjoy innocent pleaſure than to loſe ſums that may involve circumſtances or diſtreſs relations, then is dancing ſuperior to gaming; and the perſon who has ſubſtituted ſo delightful a recreation in the place of ſo pernicious a purſuit, and who has ſubſtituted it into thoſe circles in which it chiefly prevailed, and which inferior claſſes are ſo apt to copy, has produced a beneficial change in ſociety. Such has reſulted from the countenance of the Ducheſs of Gordon. By diminiſhing the time and attention beſtowed upon gaming, ſhe has immediately benefited faſhionable life, and ultimately other ranks in ſociety.

Although the influence of her Grace has produced the moſt ſenſible and regular effects in the amuſements, recreations, and character of faſhion, yet has ſhe occaſionally exerted herſelf with much activity in the political world. From the firſt public appearance of Mr. Pitt ſhe regarded him with the higheſt admiration; but though attached to the party that ſupported him, ſhe was in the habits of friendly intercourſe with many of the oppoſite ſide. Her liberal mind did not conſider identity of political opinion with her own as a neceſſary conſtituent in an eſtimable character. At the time of the King's illneſs, approving of Mr. Pitt's plan without queſtioning the integrity

tegrity of thoſe who having always voted with Mr. Fox adhered to him on that occaſion, ſhe with much indignation reprobated thoſe who having profeſſed themſelves the King's friends, and eaten his bread, joined the oppoſite party when they knew it likely to become prevalent. As her Grace, when requiſite, expreſſed ſentiments very frankly that ſhe knew to be right, although not perfectly agreeable to ſome hearers, ſhe was at that time not ſparing in her animadverſions. She accoſted, with very great and juſt ſeverity, a well-known peripatetic (we do not mean a peripatetic philoſopher,) and expoſed his conduct in ſo humorous and ſtrong ſatire, that it is ſaid ſhe almoſt recalled to his recollection that there is ſuch a feeling as ſhame in the human mind.

When the French revolution changed the form and object of parties, her Grace adhering to that which adopted the ſentiments of Mr. Burke, occaſionally met with perſons who viewed it in a different light. Even then, without attacking with indiſcriminate acrimony, all thoſe who thought otherwiſe from herſelf, ſhe was frequently ſevere on perſons of rank and title, whom in conceiving to wiſh for the abolition of their own privileges, ſhe conſidered as guilty of a ſort of political ſuicide. One day a very acute and able nobleman, but by no means ſo remarkable for external appearance as for intellectual ability, and whoſe lady was ſuppoſed to have been more in love with his title than himſelf, was advancing ſome doctrines which ſhe conſtrued to be favourable to levelling principles. "Lord!" ſaid ſhe, "it is very ungrateful of you to abuſe titles; to a title you owe your rich wife. Do you think any woman of fortune would have married you if you had been plain—.

Her

Her Grace very frequently has parties of able politicians to dinner. Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas are of the number of her viſitants on ſuch occaſions.

The eldeſt ſon of their Graces, the Marquis of Huntley, is one of the moſt elegant young men of the age; acute, accompliſhed, open, frank, and unaſſuming, carrying in his handſome, expreſſive countenance a paſſport to the heart; a favourite with all that know him, is peculiarly ſo with Scotſmen, at whoſe periodical feſtivals he often preſides, and delights thoſe numerous companies by his ſocial, convivial manners and habits. His Lordſhip began his military career in the 42d or Old Highland regiment. To his native highlands he is extremely partial, and never in higher glee than when enjoying himſelf at the highland club*. His Lordſhip now commands a regiment, at the head of which he diſtinguiſhed himſelf in Holland in the engagement at Alkmaar, was wounded, but fortunately for his friends and country, in a ſlight degree. Lord Huntley is very fond of Scotch muſic and dancing, and of the latter is one of the beſt and moſt graceful performers in the kingdom. The Ducheſs is extremely fond of this amiable and worthy ſon. Of the daughters of the family, three have become members of the firſt houſes in England; and one married a reſpectable Scotch baronet. Lady Charlotte, the eldeſt, is the wife of Colonel Lennox, heir of the Duke of Richmond. Lady Madelaine, the ſecond, married Sir Robert Sinclair; Lady Suſan is Ducheſs of Mancheſter; Lady Louiſa is the wife of Lord Broome, ſon and heir of Marquis Cornwallis; and Lady Georgina, equal in beauty, lovelineſs, and

* Which meets periodically at the Shakeſpear during the winter.

and accompliſhments, to any of her ſiſters, now about ſeventeen, is ſtill unmarried. Their Graces have two ſons under age.

Her Grace is ſomewhat above the middle ſize, very finely ſhaped, though now conſiderably *en-bon-point*. Her face is oval, with dark expreſſive eyes, very regular features, fine complexion, and a moſt engaging expreſſion.

The Ducheſs very frequently deals in bons mots; ſome of them ſportive, and ſome, as we have already ſeen, ſtrongly and poignantly ſatirical. Two we juſt now recollect, which we ſhall here annex to our account.—One evening a party of friends being engaged at ſome amuſements reſembling queſtions and commands, it is ſaid that the Marquis being aſked what trade he would chooſe, anſwered, making garters* for ladies' ſtockings; and that the Ducheſs obſerved, "Ah, George! you would ſoon be *above* your trade."—One evening her Grace was in company with a gentleman, the correct compoſition of whoſe military diſpatches had undergone ſome critical animadverſions.—"I congratulate you," ſaid the Ducheſs, "on your talent for writing Engliſh poetry." "Engliſh poetry!" ſaid he—"Yes!" ſaid ſhe, "for I am ſure what you write is not Engliſh proſe."

Her Grace had ſeveral brothers, of whom, we believe, Sir William Maxwell is now the only one alive. General Maxwell, her ſecond brother, died ſome years ago, leaving her Grace a conſiderable legacy. She has two ſiſters, one of whom is Mrs. Fordyce, the lady of John

* A certain Scotch methodiſtical lady, of conſiderable beauty, was ſo fond of ſcripture paſſages, that ſhe had ſome of them marked on different parts of her dreſs. The motto of her garters was, *ſet your affections on things above*.

John Fordyce, Esq. formerly a banker in Edinburgh; the other, Lady Wallace, so well known in the fashionable and literary world.

DOCTOR CURRIE,

OF LIVERPOOL.

JAMES CURRIE, M. D. is the only son of a clergyman of the church of Scotland, whose father also exercised the pastoral office in that part of the county of Dumfries, named Annandale. In the *manse*, or parsonage house, which had descended as by inheritance from his grandfather to his father, the subject of the present memoir was born in the year 1756.

The Scottish nation enjoys an invaluable advantage in the institution of parochial schools, where youths receive, upon the easiest terms, the rudiments of a good education. In the school of his parish, and under the inspection of his father, Dr. C entered upon his grammatical and classical studies. When he had attained the thirteenth year of his age, he was sent to the school of Dumfries, which was then conducted by Dr. Chapman, so well known by his work on education. In Dr. Chapman's house he resided as a boarder; and, after going through the regular course of the school, he continued, under the superintendance of the Doctor, to prosecute his studies in the mathematics. If, from the maturity of a plant, we may form an idea of its early culture, we may be justified in supposing, that Dr. Currie enjoyed considerable advan-

tages in the aſſiduities of his tutor, and that he improved theſe advantages to the utmoſt.

The diſpoſition of the northern Britons to emigrate into climes more promiſing than their own, has been ſo frequent a ſubject of wit, that the ſhrewdeſt mode of hinting the fact now ſcarcely provokes a ſmile. We ſhall, therefore, ſimply ſtate, that Dr. C. participated, with a large portion of his countrymen, in the ſpirit of adventure, in conſequence of which, he went to Virginia, in the ſervice of a company of merchants.

His voyage to the American continent was far from being auſpicious. Soon after his arrival, the jealouſies which the American ſtates had long entertained of the oppreſſive projects of the Britiſh miniſtry, ſtipulated them to publiſh the moſt ſpirited reſolutions; in conſequence of which, the trade between America and England was entirely interrupted. This circumſtance at once clouded the flattering proſpects of our young adventurer, who went, at the commencement of the troubles, to reſide with a near relation, an eminent phyſician in the colony.

Mercantile purſuits being thus fatally embarraſſed by the agitation of the times, Mr. C. determined to change his views in life, and to adopt the profeſſion of medicine to which he had been originally deſtined. In purſuance of this deſign, he reſolved to go through a regular courſe of ſtudy, at the Univerſity of Edinburgh. He accordingly bid adieu to America, and, as direct communication with Britain was obſtructed, he went by way of the Weſt Indies to London. At this buſy metropolis he arrived ſometime in the courſe of the year 1776.

After a ſhort ſtay in London, he repaired to Edinburgh, and began his academic ſtudies. Theſe he proſecuted

ſecuted with great vigour, and unremitting aſſiduity, till the ſpring of 1780.

At this period divers cogent reaſons urged him to wiſh to enter into ſome active employment. His friends encouraged him to hope that he might be appointed on the ſtaff of the army as a phyſician; and a medical eſtabliſhment being at that time about to be formed for the army in Jamaica, it was thought adviſable that he ſhould ſtand candidate for the appointment of phyſician, or aſſiſtant phyſician, to the hoſpital: but, before ſolicitation for his appointment could be made with propriety, it was abſolutely neceſſary that the candidate ſhould have taken his degree. Though Mr. C. had ſtudied at Edinburgh three years, the time neceſſary to qualify him to apply for the honour of graduation, there are only two days on which medical degrees are conferred in that Univerſity. The urgency of the occaſion not permitting Mr. C. to wait for the recurrence of the neareſt of theſe days, he took his degree at Glaſgow, and immediately began the diſagreeable work of ſoliciting for the appointment which his friends had inſpired him with hope of obtaining.

The retired habits of aſſiduous ſtudy, and the ſcrupulous nicety of a man of elevated mind, were but ill calculated to procure the favour of numerous or powerful patrons. From ſome of the profeſſors of the Univerſity, however, and from thoſe of his fellow ſtudents with whom he had formed an acquaintance, Dr. Currie was furniſhed with ample and honourable teſtimonials, and with the moſt urgent letters of introduction and recommendation. But, on his arrival in London, he found that the appointment, the object of his wiſhes, was already diſpoſed of. At the inſtance of Mr. Surgeon-gene-

ral Adair, it had been conferred on a young Iriſh phyſician, a gentleman of indiſputable merit.

Veſtigia nulla retrorſum ſeems to be the motto of the major part of the men of talents who quit the barren mountains of Caledonia. The Doctor being diſappointed in his hopes of preferment in the medical ſtaff, reſolved, at all events, to go to Jamaica, and attempt to eſtabliſh himſelf in that iſland as a phyſician. He accordingly took his paſſage in a veſſel which was expected ſoon to ſail in company with a numerous fleet. Various circumſtances delayed the ſailing of this fleet, and, conſequently, cauſed the Doctor to paſs the ſummer of 1780 in London.

During this interval of delay, he was encouraged by his friends, whoſe numbers and zeal encreaſed in proportion as he was known, to think of ſettling as a phyſician in ſome part of England In the courſe of his enquiries after an eligible ſituation, he viſited various places. At length, in the latter end of 1780, a vacancy being occaſioned in the medical profeſſion at Liverpool, by the removal of Dr. Dobſon to Bath, Dr. C. repaired to the former place, where he ſoon met with very great encouragement.

In the year 1783 he married the daughter of a very reſpectable merchant of the town of Liverpool.

In the enſuing year, his growing uſefulneſs was very ſeriouſly impeded by a dangerous illneſs, which was occaſioned by the exertions and anxieties of friendſhip.

The moſt affectionate intimacy ſubſiſted between him and the ingenious Dr. Bell, then reſident at Mancheſter. During an alarming illneſs of his friend, which unfortunately terminated in his death, Dr. Currie paid him ſeveral viſits. The fatigue occaſioned by the rapid

pid mode in which a phyſician of riſing practice is in a manner obliged to make diſtant journies, occaſioned an inflammatory fever, which reduced him to the greateſt extremity. The diſorder ſettling on his lungs, brought on a cough, which for a long time threatened conſumption. This illneſs diſabled him from proſecuting his practice for at leaſt the ſpace of ſix months.

Though the event which has juſt been mentioned is, in reality, an event of ſerious importance in the life of a medical gentleman, it would not, perhaps, have been recorded in theſe memoirs, did it not give occaſion to refer to a very intereſting account of the Doctor's caſe, which was written by himſelf, and communicated to Dr. Darwin, who inſerted it in the 3d volume of his Zoonomia, p. 293. Dr. Darwin introduces it with the following reſpectful notice of the author.

"The following caſe of hereditary conſumption is related by a phyſician of great ability and very extenſive practice; and, as it is his own caſe, abounds with much much nice obſervation and uſeful knowledge; and, as it has been attended with a favourable event, may give conſolation to many who are in a ſimilar ſituation, and ſhews that Sydenham's recommendation of riding as a cure for conſumption is not ſo totally ineffectual as is now commonly believed."

The firſt exertion which Dr. C. made on the commencement of his recovery, was occaſioned by his zeal to pay the tribute of affection to the memory of his deceaſed friend. He had received a requeſt* from the Literary Society of Mancheſter, that he would tranſlate the Inaugural Diſſertation of Dr. Bell, and prefix to his tranſlation, Memoirs of the Author's Life. This requeſt was tranſmitted to him§ in the month of February,

* Memoirs of Mancheſter Society, vol. ii. p. 397.
§ Vide Memoirs ut ſupra.

bruary, 1784; but ſo long was the continuance of his debilitating illneſs, that the papers in queſtion were not communicated to the ſociety till March, 1785.

In publiſhing the Memoirs of Dr. Bell, Dr. Currie may be regarded as making his firſt appearance in the character of an author. In the memoirs themſelves, however, there is not the leaſt trace of internal evidence of a firſt appearance. The ſtyle is maturely formed, and poſſeſſes a correctneſs which is hardly to be expected but from the pen of a practiſed writer. Indeed it has not been excelled by the happieſt of its author's ſubſequent writings. The concluding ſummary of Dr. Bell's character is a model of nice diſcrimination, and evinces a moſt accurate knowledge of the general principles of human nature. The delicate, yet exact, manner in which the defective traits of Dr. Bell's character are touched, beautifully exemplifies the ſternneſs of truth, controling the partial pencil of affection.

The inhabitants of the town of Liverpool have been long diſtinguiſhed by the liberality with which they patronize charitable inſtitutions. In the year 1785, a propoſal was made to connect with the public Infirmary (of which Dr. C. was one of the phyſicians) an aſylum for the reception of lunatics. This project the Doctor warmly recommended, in a letter which he publiſhed in Gore's Liverpool Advertiſer, in the month of Auguſt, 1789. In a ſubſequent letter, dated October 15, 1789, he anſwered the objections which had been advanced againſt the propoſed eſtabliſhment. Both theſe letters are diſtinguiſhed by luminouſneſs of method, and chaſtity of ſtyle. The latter may be juſtly cited as an example of the candid and temperate diſcuſſion of a practical queſtion of great importance—an example, alas! of rare occurrence;

rence: for, in theſe times of turbulence, diſcord mars the wiſeſt and moſt benevolent projects; creating diſorder not only on the grand arena of national contention, but on the petty ſtage of parochial litigation.

The friends of humanity will be happy to be informed, that the inſtitution in queſtion met with the moſt liberal patronage, and that the author of theſe memoirs had the ſatisfaction, on paying a viſit to Liverpool, in the year 1791, to ſee, among other monuments of the munificent ſpirit of the inhabitants of that flouriſhing mart of commerce, a handſome and well planned edifice, fitted up for the reception of thoſe who ſuffer under the preſſure of the worſt of human ills—"the mind diſeaſed."

The Medical Society of London having elected Dr. C. one of their body, he communicated to them a paper on tetanus and convulſive diſorders, which was read on the 10th of May, 1790, and publiſhed in the 3d volume of their memoirs. In this valuable communication, the Doctor recites the hiſtory of ſeven caſes—the firſt and laſt of which are ſingularly curious and intereſting. The paper is cloſed by a few judicious remarks.

In the year 1792, Dr. C. preſented to the Royal Society *an Account of the remarkable Effects of a Shipwreck on the Mariners, with Experiments and Obſervations on the Influence of Immerſion in freſh and ſalt Water, hot and cold, on the Powers of the living Body*. This paper was inſerted in the Philoſophical Tranſactions of the year in which it was received, and procured its author the honour of admiſſion into the very reſpectable literary corporation to which it was communicated.

In the year 1798, Dr. C. laid before the public the reſult of much ſtudy and accurate obſervation, in a volume of

of *Medical Reports on the Effects of Water, cold and warm, as a remedy in Fever, and other Diſeaſes.* The favourable reception which this publication experienced in the medical world, is ſufficiently evinced, by its having ſpeedily advanced to a ſecond edition, and by its having been tranſlated into the German and French languages.

However delicate the topic may be, it is impoſſible to avoid adverting, on the preſent occaſion, to the famous pamphlet, publiſhed in the year 1793, under the ſignature of Jaſper Wilſon. This pamphlet was univerſally aſcribed to Dr. C.: and notwithſtanding the illiberal but dangerous abuſe heaped upon him by the defenders of miniſtry, which it would have been raſhneſs to encounter without cauſe—and notwithſtanding the high eulogiums which the credit of this book has procured him from the opponents of miniſtry, which it would have been natural for him to diſclaim had his title to them been null: he has not, publicly, at leaſt, diſavowed the publication.

It is not a matter of ſurprize, that the celebrity of the putative author ſhould have made Jaſper Wilſon's Letter to Mr. Pitt an object of extraordinary attention. The letter appeared at an awful criſis. The unguarded violence of the Britiſh partizans of revolutionary principles had drawn down upon their heads the aſperity of miniſterial vengeance, and the indignation of the public. Various convictions of perſons accuſed of ſedition, followed up by ſevere puniſhments, had alarmed all deſcriptions of the opponents of miniſtry. Serious warnings, indeed, were given to the *enragés*, and the more moderate were aware of the immenſe advantage which Mr. Pitt had gained, by identifying his adminiſtration with the conſtitution, and perſuading the people, that an attack upon the former was an infringement on the latter. At this criſis great

great confidence was given to the friends of peace by the appearance of a letter, the author of which, while he paid due reſpect to the principles of the conſtitution, freely and ably impugned the conduct of miniſtry in protracting the war, when its avowed objects, the protection of Holland, and the recapture of Brabant, had been obtained, and when the French were ſuing for peace. So rapid was the circulation of this pamphlet, that, in a very ſhort ſpace of time, it paſſed through three editions. If the anti-miniſterialiſts ſpread the fame of J. W.'s letter by the loudneſs of their applauſe, the miniſterialiſts contributed their full ſhare to its celebrity by the vehemence of their abuſe. This abuſe, however, has not provoked a reply. In the rapid courſe of events, ſcenes more and more awful have arreſted public attention, and J. W.'s letter may now be in a manner regarded as a tale of the times of old. It may now, perhaps, be examined with a diſpaſſionate eye, and acknowledged to be a production worthy of a gentleman and a ſcholar; and though time, that tries all things, has, in ſome degree, confuted the commercial ſpeculations of its author, yet the lapſe of events has fatally proved, that his political predictions originated in the ſagacity of a comprehenſive mind.

M. N.

THE

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.*

FRANCIS RUSSELL, Duke of Bedford, ſucceeded to that title in the year 1771, on the death of the late Duke, his grandfather; at which time he was only ſeven years of age. He loſt both parents about four years before; his father, the Marquis of Tavisſtock, having been killed by a fall from his horſe in hunting, and the Marchioneſs dying not long after, from the effects of that melancholy event on her conſtitution, already extremely delicate.

One naturally trembles for the future moral worth, and intellectual excellence, of a youth in the ſituation of the Duke of Bedford on coming to his title; and, perhaps, the danger to his Grace was not a little increaſed, by his being left ſolely to the care of a grand-mother (the late Ducheſs Dowager of Bedford), who ſcarcely placed any bounds to her fondneſs for him. The effects of the young Duke's ſituation ſoon appeared. He was ſent to Weſtminſter ſchool, and taken home again on ſome cauſe of diſguſt, before he had acquired thoſe rudiments of learning that were to prepare him for the greater attainments becoming his ſtation. That he acquired them at home is not to be doubted, from the figure he has ſince made; but the chances were againſt him. A public ſchool is a uſeful ſcene for a boy of his Grace's rank and fortune; ſince it, in ſome degree, corrects the partialities and miſtakes of thoſe about him when at home.

His

* This illuſtrious family may be traced back as far as the 5th year of Henry III. when one of their anceſtors was conſtable of Corfe Caſtle, and many of them have filled, at various times, the moſt important offices of the ſtate.

His Grace went to the Univerſity with the diſadvantage of not being known for proficiency in ſuch learning as young men carry to College: but he made a name for himſelf there, by his application and progreſs; and gained the eſteem both of his fellow-ſtudents, and of all thoſe who had the ſuperintendance of their conduct.

Previous to the entrance of his Grace into life, a ſingular method is ſaid to have been taken to ſecure him againſt the practices of the knaves of all ranks who prey on unwary youths of fortune. He was placed, according to common fame, under the guardianſhip and tuition of a nobleman advanced in years, and well known for his knowledge of the world, and his acquaintance with the wiles of gamblers. It is ſcarcely poſſible to deviſe a more dangerous expedient for ſuch a caſe: but the Duke of Bedford eſcaped unhurt by the folly of the experiment, if it was really made; it being acknowledged that play has no other hold on his mind than that of an amuſement kept within its due bounds.

When his Grace went on the tour of Europe, a circumſtance occurred as ſingular, in its place, as the above. He was accompanied by a lady, who was certainly a woman of cultivated talents and amiable manners, but who, in other reſpects, ſcarcely ſeemed to be a ſuitable companion for a young man actually travelling for improvement. But it ought to be ſtated, as a fact equally honourable to the Lady and his Grace, that he rather derived benefit than injury from this very extraordinary appendage of his travels.

After the Duke of Bedford returned from his tour, thoſe who had calculated only on the diſadvantages of his earlieſt years, and to whom no opportunities had ariſen to obſerve the characteriſtic qualities of his mind, were ſurpri-

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zed to ſee his powers in their gradual develloppment. His Grace's name was regarded, firſt with reſpect, and afterwards with admiration. His rank, fortune, and influence, made him a prize for miniſtry to contend for, and which they did not fail to try all means of ſecuring. But, although the greater number of his relations, the Dukes of Marlborough and Dorſet, Lord Stafford, and others, were on the ſide of miniſtry, his Grace wiſely preferred being the friend and coadjutor of men, than whom no greater or more excellent ever adorned hiſtory, to the leaguing himſelf with profligacy poſſeſſing all the power of the ſtate.

If miniſters could not gain the Duke of Bedford from his country, and a ſmall but illuſtrious band acting in its cauſe, they could attempt to degrade him in the eſtimation of the world, by petty artifices, ſuch as their hirelings are dexterous in applying. They have, however, found nothing to tax his Grace with, except meanneſs of ſpirit in his economy. On this ſide, there is ſomething in the Duke of Bedford's character that is almoſt peculiar to himſelf. Having no regard for the accumulation of money, and actually deſpiſing it except for uſeful purpoſes, he has a habit of minute attention to his expenditure, and a lively abhorrence of the rapacity of ſuch as make an employment of plundering perſons in his ſituation. In truth, a man has little cauſe of quarrel with fame, of whom nothing worſe is ſaid than this—*that, with high rank and immenſe fortune, he has not ſlid, as is cuſtomary with ſuch perſonages, into the character of the dupe of menial ſervants, and of fawning greedy tradeſmen.* There is firmneſs and ſtrength in this part of the Duke's habits; whether his enemies are too ſhallow to perceive the truth, or affect to overlook it. It is a very common

ſaying,

ſaying, that facts are ſtubborn things; but they are very ſtubborn notwithſtanding. His Grace may well deſire to be tried by them. He is known to have furniſhed his party with large ſums, and if ſomething is to be aſcribed to party ſpirit, all cannot be taken away from munificence; he contributed, in a manner becoming his circumſtances, to the noble deſign of relieving a great character from the petty embarraſſments of pecuniary affairs; and if the time of that tranſaction be conſidered, it will be found unequivocal enough; but, to render all other examples unneceſſary, it need only be added, that he made ſettlements on his younger brothers, left unprovided for, and ſtill holds his coffers to be their bank, as ſincerely as he takes them for his own.

The Duke of Bedford's talents are of the higher order. His parliamentary ſpeeches are diſtinguiſhed by that quantity of rectitude which ſeldom belongs to any but ſtrong minds; and that ſolidity, which is never acquired without labour accompanied with native capacity. There is a kind of taſte in the Duke of Bedford's ſpeeches that is grateful to the ſcholar and philoſopher. His ſpeeches on the *ſeceſſion*, and on the *aſſeſſed tax bill*, are well known, and do not want our commendation: but, in ſome of his Grace's ſpeeches, made on occaſions deemed ſlight, and ſcarcely noticed, yet giving opportunity to the philanthropiſt to attempt ſomething for his fellow-creatures, he has afforded great delight to cloſe obſervers of human conduct. In a debate on a divorce bill before the Lords, when he ſupported a motion, *to make it an indiſpenſable clauſe of every divorce bill, in future, to provide for the unhappy female, according to circumſtances*, his Grace diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a man of a generous nature,

and

and having comprehenſive views of the moral relations of ſociety.

We are now to turn to that part of the Duke of Bedford's character in which he will be allowed, by foes as well as friends, to ſurpaſs every man of rank in this country.

Inſtead of waſting his life in diſſipation, indolence, or gaming, his Grace has found, that he can be happy without ruining his health and fortune, in corrupting the morals and injuring the property of his fellow creatures; that he can experience real pleaſures in projecting and executing experiments for the benefit of mankind; and can walk about his farm at Woburn, and enjoy the ſatisfaction of ſeeing two or three thouſand men uſefully employed, and themſelves and their families rendered comfortable and happy by his bounty. It, indeed, is the higheſt eulogy of every nobleman and gentleman, to be beloved and adored in the vicinity of his country ſeat, where his genuine character is neceſſarily the beſt known.

The well-cultivated farm which the Duke keeps in his own management, conſiſts of about 3000 acres, excluſively of his extenſive park. This park is nearly 20 miles in circumference, and it ſupports a great ſtock of ſheep and young cattle beſides a large herd of fine deer. Within the park is ſituate the new farm yard, in which is found every conveniency and modern improvement; particularly a threſhing machine worked by horſes or oxen from two to ſix in number, and which is capable of threſhing and dreſſing ſeven quarters every hour, and of grinding and dreſſing the flour at the ſame time. Adjoining to this machinery is a malt houſe, and on the outſide of the ſeveral yards are ſtables, barns, and ſheds, with ſhops for carpenters, joiners, ſmiths, wheelwrights,

wrights, &c. &c. The pig-ſties are ſo clean that they would put many a cottager to the bluſh for want of cleanlineſs in their little habitations. In the yard are two good dwelling-houſes for the bailiffs. The implements are thoſe of the beſt conſtruction and neweſt invention, and they conſiſt of all kinds of plows and harrows, rollers, chaff-cutting machines, &c.; among them is Mr. Salmon's chaff-cutter, which is admired for its ſimplicity, and for its capacity of being worked either by men, horſes, or water. To all improvements in implements of huſbandry, his Grace is a liberal patron. This unparalleled farm yard is in every reſpect admirable for its completeneſs, neatneſs, and utility.

To detail the variety of his Grace's farming purſuits, to enumerate his plans, and to follow him in all the public meetings and ſocieties which he conducts or patronizes, would alone occupy a very intereſting volume.

Among other extraordinary exertions he has ſelected and improved, with judgment and perſeverance, two diſtinct ſtocks of ſheep; one of them the favourite South Down breed, that was formerly peculiar to Suſſex, but which is now ſpreading faſt over every part of the kingdom; the other, the new Leiceſterſhire or Bakewell breed, nearly as much eſteemed as the former. Theſe two ſtocks on his Grace's extenſive domain, are kept entirely ſeparate, under the management of different ſhepherds and different bailiffs.

In cattle, his Grace advances with rapid ſtrides towards perfection. He has ſelected with extraordinary diſcernment, the valuable breeds which are found in Herefordſhire, Devonſhire, and Suſſex, and has drawn together from thoſe counties, the moſt valuable individuals. He encourages the uſe of oxen, and frequently attends

attends the neighbouring fairs and markets; and examines the cattle and ſometimes the ſhambles, to inſpect the quality of the meat. With the farmers he is exceedingly familiar and communicative on agricultural topics.

In the practice of irrigation his Grace has been very ſucceſsful, and he has evinced its wonderful effects upon ſeveral hundred acres of land. The encloſures of common fields have afforded him the opportunity of bringing into a high ſtate of cultivation, ſome thouſand acres of land, which would otherwiſe have been for ever uſeleſs.

Of the grand annual ſheepſhearings, held at Woburn, ſome account will naturally be expected. Theſe feſtivals continue ſeveral days, and the viſitors, from one to two hundred nobleman and gentlemen farmers, are all the time hoſpitably entertained and uſefully amuſed; the examination of the ſtock, of the implements, of the improvements in the grounds, and the adjudication of premiums for cattle and ſheep, and ploughing, with agricultural converſation, are the ſources of information and employment. Each day and hour has its allotted buſineſs: the bell for breakfaſt rings at nine; an excurſion occupies the time till three, when the dinner is ſerved up in the great hall; coffee and horſes at ſix are the ſignal for another excurſion, till the cloſe of day light, when the company return to ſupper. At the laſt ſheepſhearing, in June, 1799, from a hundred to a hundred and ninety ſat down to dinner for five days ſucceſſively, and there were preſent the Duke of Mancheſter, the Marquis of Bath, the Earls of Egremont, Lauderdale, and Winchelſea, the Lords Sherborne, Preſton, Ludlow, John, William, and Robert Ruſſel, the Preſident and Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, the Preſident of the Royal Society, and a great aſſemblage of gentlemen

gentlemen of fortune, of farmers, breeders, and graziers, from every part of the kingdom. Hoſpitality could not be more nobly, or more uſefully exerted than on this occaſion, by his Grace of Bedford, from whoſe magnificent manſion, and highly cultivated farm, every one went away equally well pleaſed and inſtructed.

Meetings of this kind are not only praiſe-worthy in a public light, but in the end cannot fail to prove of high advantage to the individual eſtate on which they are held. Every man of large landed property is intereſted in following the wiſe example of the Duke of Bedford, over and above the grateful reflection, that, like him, he will alſo deſerve well of his country.

MR. COWPER.

(WITH SOME ORIGINAL PIECES OF HIS POETRY.)

IT has been frequently obſerved, that the life of a man of genius is marked by few incidents. The mind, which grows up amidſt the privacies of ſtudy, and the character, which is framed by ſolitary meditation, belong in a great degree to a world of their own, from which the paſſions and events of ordinary life are equally excluded. There is, therefore, nothing very remarkable in the life of the poet to whom theſe pages are devoted. But in the hiſtory of thoſe who have done honour to the Engliſh nation, and added richneſs to the Engliſh language, no circumſtance is trifling, and no incident unworthy of record; eſpecially, as there is a ſort of ſanc-

tity attached to theſe men, which diffuſes itſelf to the minuteſt tranſaction in which they have been concerned.

Mr. Cowper was born at Berkhamſtead, in Buckinghamſhire, his father being the incumbent of the living of that place. Our poet is deſcended from the firſt Earl Cowper Lord Chancellor of England, his grandfather being one of the children of that nobleman.

Mr. Cowper received his education at Weſtminſter ſchool; and a place of conſiderable profit, that of the clerkſhip to the Houſe of Lords, a patent office, and which had been a conſiderable time in the family, was reſerved for him. But upon his quitting ſchool and entering into the Temple, he found himſelf reluctant to undertake a function of activity and buſineſs. His native love of retirement, a conſtitutional timidity of mind, and the languor of a very weak and precarious ſtate of health, diſcouraged him from undertaking the duties of a ſituation, which required the moſt unremitting attention and diligence.

About this time, he lived in habits of cloſe and familiar communication with Dr. Cotton, the elegant and ingenious author of the Fire-Side. His intimacy with this gentleman muſt, in no inconſiderable degree, have contributed to his inclination for poetry, by the inſtructions and example of his friend. But the firſt foundation of his poetic excellence was laid by his familiarity with the beſt and moſt unaffected authors of antiquity.

At Huntingdon, a place in which he reſided for a few years, he contracted a ſtrong friendſhip with the Rev. Mr. Unwin, and on the death of that gentleman, accompanied his widow to Olney. It was in this village, and about this period of his life, that Mr. Cowper pro-

duced

duced the earlieſt compoſitions that are traced to his pen. The poems he wrote upon this occaſion, were hymns publiſhed in a collection called the Olney Hymns, and diſtinguiſhed by the letter C. They bear internal evidence of a cultivated underſtanding, and an original genius. His time was not wholly dedicated to that literary leiſure, in which the mind, left to its own operations, purſues that line of purſuit, which is the moſt congenial to its taſte, and the moſt adapted to its powers. In his garden, in his library, and in his daily walks, he ſeems to have diſciplined his muſe to the picturesque and vivid habits of deſcription, which will always diſtinguiſh Cowper among our national poets. No writer, with the exception only of Thomſon, ſeems to have ſtudied nature with more diligence, and to have copied her with more fidelity. An advantage which he has gained over other men, by his diſdaining to ſtudy her, "through the ſpectacles of books," as Dryden calls it, and by his purſuing her through her haunts, and watching her in all her attitudes, with the eye of a philoſopher as well as of a poet.

Mr. Cowper had no propenſity for public life; it was not, therefore, ſingular that he ſhould have neglected the ſtudy of the law, on which he had entered. That knowledge of active life, which is ſo requiſite for the legal profeſſion, would ſcarcely be acquired in lonely wanderings on the banks of the Ouſe, and in ſilent contemplations of the beauties of nature. In this retreat, he exchanged, for the ſociety and converſe of the muſes, the ambition and tumult of a forenſic life; dedicating his mind to the cultivation of poetry, and ſtoring it with thoſe images, which he derived from the inexhauſtible treaſury of a rich and varied ſcenery in a moſt beautiful and romantic country.

The firſt volume of poems, which he publiſhed, conſiſts of various pieces, on various ſubjects. It ſeems that he had been aſſiduous in cultivating a turn for grave and argumentative verſification, on moral and ethical topics. Of this kind is the Table Talk, and ſeveral other pieces in the collection. He, who objects to theſe poems as containing too great a neglect of harmony in the arrangement of his words, and the uſe of expreſſions too proſaic, will condemn him on principles of criticiſm, which are by no means juſt, if the object and ſtyle of the ſubject be conſidered. Horace apologized for the careleſſneſs of his own ſatires, which are, ſtrictly ſpeaking, only ethical and moral diſcourſes, by obſerving that thoſe topics required the *pedeſtrian*, and familiar diction, and a form of expreſſion, not elevated to the heights of poetry. But, if the reader will forego the delight of ſmooth verſification, and recollect that poetry does not altogether conſiſt in even and poliſhed mette, he will remark in theſe productions no ordinary depth of thinking and of judgment, upon the moſt important objects of human concernment; and he will be occaſionally ſtruck with lines, not unworthy of Dryden for their ſtrength and dignity.

The lighter poems are well known. Of theſe, the verſes ſuppoſed to be written by Alexander Selkirk, on the iſland of Juan Fernandez, are in the moſt popular eſtimation. There is great originality in the following ſtanza.

I am out of humanity's reach;
I muſt finiſh my journey alone;
Never hear the ſweet muſic of ſpeech;
I ſtart at the ſound of my own.

It

It would be abſurd to give one general character of the pieces that were publiſhed in this volume: yet this is true concerning Mr. Cowper's productions; that in all the varieties of his ſtyle there may ſtill be diſcerned the likeneſs and impreſſion of the ſame mind; the ſame unaffected modeſty which always rejects unſeaſonable ambitions and ornaments of language; the ſame eaſy vigour; the ſame ſerene and cheerful hope derived from a ſteady and unſhaken faith in the dogmas of chriſtianity.

I am not prepared to affirm that Mr. Cowper derives any praiſe from the choice and elegance of his words; but he has the higher praiſe of having choſen them without affectation. He appears to have uſed them as he found them; neither introducing faſtidious refinements, nor adhering to obſolete barbariſms. He underſtands the whole ſcience of numbers, and he has practiſed their different kinds with conſiderable happineſs; and if his verſes do not flow ſo ſoftly as the delicacy of a modern ear requires, that roughneſs, which is objected to his poetry, is his choice, not his defect. But this ſort of critics, who admire only what is exquiſitely poliſhed, theſe lovers of "gentleneſs without ſinews,"* ought to take into their eſtimate that vaſt effuſion of thought which is ſo abundantly poured over the writings of Mr. Cowper, without which human diſcourſe is only an idle combination of ſounds and ſyllables.

Let me haſten, however, to that work which has more peculiarly given to Cowper the character of a poet. After an interval of a few years, his Taſk was uſhered into the world. The occaſion that gave birth to it was a trivial one. A lady had requeſted him to write

* Dr. Sprat's Life of Cowley.

write a piece in blank verſe, and gave him the ſofa for his ſubject. This he expanded into one of the fineſt moral poems of which the Engliſh language has been productive.

It is written in blank verſe, of which the conſtruction, though in ſome reſpects reſembling Milton's, is truly original and characteriſtic. It is not too ſtately for familiar deſcription, nor too depreſſed for ſublime and elevated imagery. If it has any fault, it is that of being too much laden with idiomatic expreſſion, a fault which the author, in the rapidity with which his ideas and his utterance ſeem to have flowed, very naturally incurred.

In this poem his fancy ran with the moſt excurſive freedom. The poet enlarges upon his topics, and confirms his argument by every variety of illuſtration. He never, however, dwells upon them too long, and leaves off in ſuch a manner, that it ſeems, it was in his power to have ſaid more.

The arguments of the poem are various. The works of nature, the aſſociations with which they exhibit themſelves, the deſigns of Providence, and the paſſions of men. Of one advantage the writer has amply availed himſelf. The work not being rigidly confined to any preciſe ſubject, he has indulged himſelf in all the laxity and freedom of a miſcellaneous poem. Yet he has ſtill adhered ſo faithfully to the general laws of congruity, that whether he inſpires the ſofter affections into his reader, or delights him with keen and playful raillery, or diſcourſes on the ordinary manners of human nature, or holds up the bright pictures of religious conſolation to his mind, he adopts, at pleaſure, a diction juſt and appropriate, equal in elevation to the ſacred effuſions of Chriſtian rapture, and ſufficiently eaſy and familiar

* Dr. Sprat's Life of Cowley.

familiar for deſcriptions of domeſtic life; ſkilful alike in ſoaring without effort, and deſcending without meanneſs.

He who deſires to put into the hands of youth a poem which, not deſtitute of poetic embelliſhment, is free from all matter of a licentious tendency, will find in the Taſk a book adapted to his purpoſe. It would be the part of an abſurd and extravagant auſterity, to condemn thoſe poetical productions in which the paſſion of love conſtitutes the primary feature. In every age that paſſion has been the concernment of life, the theme of the poet, the plot of the ſtage. Yet there is a ſort of amorous ſenſibility, bordering almoſt on morbid enthuſiaſm, which the youthful mind too frequently imbibes from the glowing ſentiments of the poets. Their genius deſcribes, in the moſt ſplendid colours, the operations of a paſſion which requires rebuke inſtead of incentive, and lends to the moſt grovelling ſenſuality the enchantments of a rich and creative imagination. But in the Taſk of Cowper, there is no licentiouſneſs of deſcription. All is grave, and majeſtic, and moral. A vein of religious thinking pervades every page, and he diſcourſes, in a ſtrain of the moſt finiſhed poetry, on the inſufficiency and vanity of human purſuits.

Nor he is always ſevere. He is perpetually enlivening the mind of his reader by ſportive deſcriptions, and by repreſenting, in elevated meaſures, ludicrous objects and circumſtances, a ſpecies of the mock-heroic, of which Philips* was the firſt author. In this latter ſort of ſtyle Mr. Cowper has diſplayed great powers of verſification, and great talents for humour. Of this the hiſtorical account he has given of chairs, in the firſt book of the Taſk, is a ſtriking ſpecimen.

the

* The Splendid Shilling.

The attention, however, is the moſt detained by thoſe paſſages, in which the charms of rural life, and the endearments of domeſtic retirement, are pourtrayed. It is in vain to ſearch in any poet of antient or modern times for more pathetic touches of repreſentation. The Taſk abounds with incidents, introduced as epiſodes, and interpoſing an agreeable relief to the grave and ſerious parts of the poetry. Who has not admired his crazy Kate? A deſcription in which the calamity of a diſordered reaſon is painted with admirable exactneſs and ſimplicity.

"She begs an idle pin of all ſhe meets."

I know of no poet who would have introduced ſo minute a circumſtance into his repreſentation; yet who is there that does not perceive that it derives its effect altogether from the minuteneſs with which it is drawn?

It were an endleſs taſk to point out the beauties of the poem. It is now eſtabliſhed in its reputation, and, by univerſal conſent, it has given Cowper a very high place amongſt our national poets. Let thoſe who cannot perceive its beauties, dwell with rapture on its defects. The taſte or the ſenſibility of that man is little to be envied who, in the pride of a faſtidious criticiſm, would be reluctant in attributing to Mr. Cowper, the praiſe and character of a poet, becauſe in the tide and rapidity of his fancy he has not been ſcrupulous in the arrangement of a word or the adjuſtment of a cadence.

The next work, which Mr. Cowper publiſhed, was a tranſlation of the Iliad, and the Odyſſey. The deſign was worthy of his talents. His object was to preſent the father of poeſy to the Engliſh reader, not in Engliſh habiliments, and modern attire, but in the graceful

graceful and antique habit of his own times. He therefore adopted blank verſe. Rhyme, by the uniformity of its cadence and the reſtrictions which it impoſed, rendered the taſk of tranſlation evidently a paraphraſe, becauſe the poet, who could not expreſs the meaning of his author in phraſe, and diction, that would accord with his own numbers, muſt be, of neceſſity, compelled to mix his own meaning with his Author's, to ſoften, and dilute it, as it were, to his own verſification. This is the diſadvantage of Mr. Pope's Homer; a work, which it were blaſphemy to deſpiſe, and folly to undervalue, while variety and harmony of numbers retain their dominion over the mind of man. Yet no one will deny, that Mr. Pope has frequently forgotten Homer; and that in ſome paſſages he has impaired the ſtrength, and debaſed the majeſty of his original. Let it be remembered, however, that it is no mean honour to any poet to have followed the bold and lofty ſteps of the divine bard; and that he is not to be cenſured, though he ſhould lag behind him in his courſe through that ſublime region, which Homer only could tread with ſafety, and with confidence.

> Quid enim contendat hirundo
> Cycnis? aut quidnam tremulis facere artubus hoedi
> Conſimile in curſu poſſint, ac fortis equi vis. LUCRET.

It is a wanton and fooliſh criticiſm to compare the tranſlation of Mr. Pope with that of Mr. Cowper. The merits of each are diſtinct and appropriate. Mr. Pope has exhibited Homer as he would have ſung, had he been born in England. Mr. Cowper has attempted to pourtray him, as he wrote in Greece, adhering frequently

frequently to the peculiarities of his own idiom, and endeavouring to preſerve his ſtrength and energy, as well as his harmony and ſmoothneſs.

The are ſeveral fugitive pieces by Mr. Cowper which have not yet been pnbliſhed. I ſhall cloſe this article by preſenting two of them to the reader.

The poplars are fell'd, and adieu to the ſhade,
And the whiſpering ſound of the cool colonnade;
The winds play no longer, and ſing in their leaves,
Nor the Ouſe, on its ſurface, their image receives.

Twelve years had elaps'd ſince I laſt took a view
Of my favourite field, and the place where they grew;
When, behold, on their ſides, in the graſs they were laid,
And I ſat on the trees under which I had ſtray'd.

The blackbird has ſought out another retreat,
Where the hazels afford him a ſcreen from the heat;
And the ſcene where his notes have oft charmed me before,
Shall reſound with his ſmooth-flowing ditty no more.

My fugitive years are all haſting away,
And I muſt myſelf lie as lowly as they,
With a turf at my breaſt, and a ſtone at my head,
Ere another ſuch grove riſes up in its ſtead.

The change both my heart and my fancy employs;
I reflect on the frailty of man and his joys;
Short liv'd as we are, yet our pleaſures, we ſee,
Have a ſtill ſhorter date, and die ſooner than we.

FROM THE ANNUAL BILL OF MORTALITY, NORTHAMPTON.

Placidaq; ibi demum morte quievit. VIRG.
Then calm at length he breath'd his ſoul away,

"Oh moſt delightful hour by man
"Experienc'd here below;
"The hour that terminates his ſpan,
"His folly and his woe:

"Worlds

" Worlds ſhould not bribe me back to tread
" Again life's dreary waſte;
" To ſee my days again o'erſpread
" With all the gloomy paſt.

" My home, henceforth, is in the ſkies,
" Earth, ſeas, and ſun, adieu;
" All heaven unfolded to my eyes,
" I have no ſight for you."

Thus ſpake Aſpatio, firm poſſeſt
Of Faith's ſupporting rod;
Then breath'd his ſoul into its reſt,
The boſom of his God.

He was a man among the few
Sincere on Virtue's ſide,
And all his ſtrength from ſcripture drew,
To hourly uſe apply'd.

That rule he priz'd, by that he fear'd,
He hated, hop'd, and lov'd,
Nor ever frown'd, or ſaid appear'd,
But when his heart had rov'd.

For he was frail as thou or I,
And evil felt within,
But when he felt it, heav'd a ſigh,
And loath'd the thought of ſin.

Such liv'd Aſpatio, and at laſt
Call'd up from earth to heav'n;
The gulph of death triumphant paſs'd
By gales of bleſſing driven.

His joys be MINE, each reader cries,
When my laſt hour arrives:
They ſhall be yours, my verſe replies,
Such ONLY be your lives.

MISS

MISS LINWOOD.

WERE any ſculptor of the preſent day to give to his figures the correctneſs and character, energy and eaſe, which we ſee diſplayed in thoſe unrivalled models of ancient art which were wrought in Greece, we ſhould claſs him as the Shakeſpeare of his profeſſion, conceive that he had diſcovered the ſcale by which ſome writers have ſuppoſed the ancient ſculptors performed theſe prodigies of art, and venerate his name for having reſtored an art the world had long loſt, and deſpaired of retrieving.

A portion of the praiſe which would be beſtowed on ſuch a man, is certainly due to the Lady whoſe name is at the head of this article, for ſhe has awakened from its long ſleep, an art which gave birth to painting, and the needle is, in her hands, become a formidable rival to the pencil. She has realiſed, in the moſt glowing colours, thoſe ſplendid wonders that were recorded by Homer, and other ancient poets; for that *the labours of the loom*, ſo often alluded to by bards of other days,

"When purple hangings cloth'd the palace walls,"

were *the art of making pictures in tapeſtry*, there can be no doubt.

The progreſs of this branch of the arts in Great Britain is curious. In the firſt ſamples, or rather ſamplers, when it was in its infancy, we ſee the Lord's prayer, or the ten commandments, ſurmounted by Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, or Daniel in the den of the lions; which, in maſſy Gothic frames, were wont

to

to decorate the walls of our ancient gentry. The firſt curious pieces of needle-work that I recollect to have ſeen recorded, are a ſuite of chair bottoms, worked by, and under the direction of, Queen Mary, conſiſting of ſome heavy trophies in honour of her heroic huſband. Thoſe were, probably, laboured, loaded, and taſteleſs, and almoſt all the early ſpecimens that we have ſeen may be very fairly put in the ſame claſs.

Since the acceſſion of our preſent king, the art has awakened from its long ſleep. In the beginning of his reign, the wife of Worlidge, the painter, copied ſome prints in needle-work, which, though dry and feeble, excited attention, and were noticed in ſome of the public prints of that day by complimentary verſes, &c. The lines that follow will, I believe, be thought a ſufficient ſpecimen: they were printed in the Public Advertiſer.

ON SEEING MRS. WORLIDGE COPY A LANDSCAPE IN NEEDLE-WORK.

At Worlidge's as late I ſaw,
A female artiſt ſketch and draw;
Now take a crayon, now a pencil,
Now thread a needle—ſtrange utenſil!
I hardly could believe my eyes,
To ſee hills, houſes, ſteeples, riſe;
While crewel o'er the canvas drawn,
Became a river or a lawn.
Thought I, it was not ſaid thro' malice,
That Worlidge was obliged to Pallas;
For ſure ſuch art can be diſplay'd
By none, except the blue-ey'd maid!
To him the prude is tender hearted,
The paintreſs from her eaſel ſtarted—
"Oh! ſir, your ſervant, pray ſit down;
My huſband's charm'd you're come to town."—
For, would you think it? On my life,
'Twas all the while the artiſt's wife.

Some

Some five and twenty years ago, ſeveral of the orphan daughters of clergymen, patronized and protected by her majeſty, and under the direction of Mrs. Wright, wrought in needle-work ſome bed-furniture, and ſeveral other things which beam with taſte and elegance.*

To theſe may be added the works of Mrs. Knowles,† who, to ſome of her fruit-pieces, has given

"The glow of nature, and the bloom of ſpring."

We might grace this liſt with many other names; but to Miſs Linwood it was reſerved to produce a collection, which, conſidering its magnitude and excellence, muſt be deemed a monument, not only of uncommon genius, but of an induſtry and perſeverance which ſurpaſſes the long long labours of Penelope at her procraſtinated web. Her works exhibit an honourable hiſtory of that part of her life which is paſt; but as her talents entitle her to a place in this miſcellany, and as many of the many thouſands who have viſited the exhibition in Hanover-ſquare, will naturally wiſh to know ſome particulars of the creator of *that world of wonders*, we have endeavoured to procure all the information we could (and it is very ſlender) of the artiſt who produced it.

Her family is of Northamptonſhire, where they have reſided for ſome ages in ſituations highly reſpectable. She was born in Warwickſhire, and has, from her very early years, reſided in Leiceſter.

Like

* This eſtabliſhment, ſo honourable to her majeſty, is ſtill continued; ſhe allows 500l. per annum for the education and accompliſhment of five orphan daughters of clergymen.

† The Quaker, widow of the late Dr. Knowles.

Like many other perſons who have had a bias to what has marked and done honour to their future lives by very trivial cauſes, this lady owes her firſt thought of an art, in which ſhe has ſo highly diſtinguiſhed herſelf, to a very trifling circumſtance.

About the year 1782, a friend ſent her a large collection of prints in the various ſtiles of ſtroke, mezzotinto, &c. They were left with no other view than that of affording her a few days amuſement. Inſpecting them with the eye of genius, ſhe conceived that the force of an engraving might be united with the ſoftneſs of a mezzotinto. Unacquainted with the uſe of aqua fortis in etching, a ſtranger to the mode of ſcraping a mezzotinto, and totally ignorant of the art of engraving in ſtroke, and the whole uſe of the burin, ſhe had no inſtrument but her needle to make the experiment. With that ſhe endeavoured to realize and embody her firſt idea, by copying ſuch prints as moſt ſtruck her attention, with the rovings of black and puce coloured ſilk upon white ſarſnet. The needle, in her hands, became like the ſpear of Ithuriel; ſhe touched her groundwork, her figures aſſumed form and ſtarted into life.

Encouraged by the applauſe which was beſtowed on her firſt works, ſhe made copies of a ſtill larger ſize; and the Empreſs of Ruſſia being then conſidered as the grand protector of genius, and ſeeming deſirous of making her court the repoſitory of every great work of art that was produced in Europe, Miſs Linwood was adviſed to preſent a ſpecimen to the Empreſs. Not knowing the extent of her own powers, nor having then a thought of making a collection, ſhe conſented, and conſigned a large picture to Peterſburgh, which, in October 1783, was preſented to her Imperial Majeſty by

by her then favourite general Landſkoy. She expreſſed the higheſt admiration of the performance, ſaid it was an exquiſite work, and, in that branch of art, unqueſtionably the fineſt in the world, and ordered Lanſkoy to make ſuch a preſent to the artiſt as ſhould be worthy of the work, and of herſelf. But death countermanded the commands of the Empreſs, for the general departed this life a few weeks afterwards, nor dared any one in the court of Peterſburgh to mention either his name, or aught in which he had been a party, to the Imperial Catherine. But, however neglected the artiſt, the picture is highly diſtinguiſhed, and now occupies a favourite ſituation in the Emperor's palace

The firſt attempt Miſs Linwood made to imitate paintings was in 1785, and ſhe ſo far ſucceeded, that in 1786, ſhe ſubmitted to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. the St. Peter, from Guido; the Head of Lear, from Sir Joſhua Reynolds; and a Hare, from the Houghton collection. For this the ſociety voted her a medal, on which is engraven, between two branches of laurel, "EXCELLENT IMITATIONS OF PICTURES IN NEEDLE-WORK." The writer of this article remembers to have ſeen, and much admired theſe exquiſite ſpecimens of the art.

Between that period and 1789, ſhe made great additions to her collection, and, in that year, copied the Salvator Mundi, from a picture, by Guido, in the collection of the Earl of Exeter; for which exquiſite production, the writer has been informed, on authority which he confides in, ſhe was once offered the immenſe ſum of three thouſand guineas.

In ancient times it was cuſtomary for ladies to preſent ſcarfs to their favourite heroes; but *the days of chivalry are*

no

no more; Miſs Linwood has, however, had the honour of having wrought the firſt banner that has been offered to any aſſociation, ſince the commencement of the preſent hoſtilities, and of having, in the year 1794, preſented it to the united *corps* of cavalry and yeomanry of Leiceſterſhire. It is her own compoſition, extremely well thought, and finiſhed with a neatneſs that has been rarely united with ſo much force.

To return to the art which this lady profeſſes, we have been informed that ſhe was never regularly inſtructed in drawing, but certain it is that ſhe has uncommon merit in painting, both in crayons, diſtemper, and colours; draws with accuracy, taſte and ſpirit, and in her paintings at the Leiceſter ball-room, &c. the perſpective is preciſely correct.

Her firſt thought of making an exhibition of her own paintings originated in ſome pictures which ſhe ſome years ſince ſent to the Royal Academy, being refuſed admiſſion; as by a law, which like that of the Medes and Perſians, *altereth not*, they reject every thing in needle-work.

To enumerate the various merits of her exhibition is ſcarcely neceſſary, it is before the public, and the attention with which it has been honoured, reflects equal praiſe on the taſte of the metropolis and the talents of the artiſt.*

* A Dialogue in Miſs Linwood's exhibition rooms, Hanover-ſquare.

Juſt return'd from *the tour*—with complexion quite bilious,
A ſqueak in his voice, and an air ſupercilious,—
Sir Visto,—ſweet ſcented with Warren's perfume,
Stept out of his chariot at Linwood's great room;
And there,—in an *Anglo-Italian* oration,
To a man of true taſte, thus depicted the nation:

From the late and the preſent preſident of the Royal Academy, and almoſt every other artiſt of eminence in the kingdom, her works have received the higheſt and moſt generous praiſe; and Sir Joſhua Reynolds gave a ſanction to his approbation, by pointing out which of his own pictures would have the beſt effect in her copies. From him, as well as the late Lords Exeter, Gainsborough, &c. &c. ſhe had many capital paintings, of which her imitations are now in Hanover-ſquare.

She is now adding to her collection, by copying two (the Woodman in a ſtorm, and the Shepherds Boy) from the late inimitable Gainſborough, lent to her by Colonel Edward Noel, and two (Lady Jane Grey, and Ephraim and Manaſſeh) from Northcote.

The following very elegant ſtanzas were written by a lady, and a ſhort time ſince inſerted in the Monthly Magazine.

ON MISS LINWOOD's ADMIRABLE PICTURES IN NEEDLE-WORK.

When Egypt's ſons, a rude, untutor'd race,
Learn'd with wild forms, the obeliſk to grace,
And mould the idol god in ductile earth,
The loom and poliſh'd needle took their birth.

When

"What Goths are theſe Engliſh; how ſtupid a crew!
How devoid of all taſte, talent, *gout*, or *verve!*
Had they ſeen what I've ſeen, when I ſaunter'd thro' Rome,
How ſunk would be all that they meet with at home.
"Were Julio Romano, and Carlo Marat,
With Guido, and Raphael *divine*, and all that!
With theſe needle work things to be plac'd in a row,—
Pray which do you think would diſplay the beſt ſhow?"
"Why faith," replies MANLY, "with you I admire
In Guido the eaſe, and in Roſa the fire—
But LINWOOD, though *worſted*, muſt ſtill keep her place,
And rival them all both in colour and grace!"

When doom'd to dull obſcurity no more,
Fair Science reign'd on each ſurrounding ſhore,
And ſtretch'd her arm o'er Greece and early Rome,
Still in her train appear'd the labours of the loom.
When Gothic night o'erwhelm'd the chearful day,
And ſculpture, painting, all neglected lay,
And furious man, creation's ſavage lord,
Knew but the hunter's ſpear, the murderer's ſword;
Our ſofter ſex emboſs'd the broider'd veſt,
In flowery robe the blooming hero dreſt;
Or rang'd in tap'ſtry's glowing colours bright
The mimic creſts, and long embattled fight.
Now learning's better ſun-beam ſhone anew,
And Gothic horrors gloomy night withdrew;
Again Prometheus wak'd the ſenſeleſs clay,
Grace, beauty, order leap'd to ſecond day.
Moſt did the manly arts its influence feel,
The pencil chas'd the houſewife's humbler ſteel;
Rent was the aged tap'ſtry from the wall,
Exulting genius gloried in its fall;
To monſtrous ſhapes, and hideous forms uncouth,
Succeeded nature fair, angelic truth,
The artiſt, man, awoke the victor's lay,
And women's labours crumbled in decay.
Then LINWOOD roſe, inſpir'd at once to give
The matchleſs grace that bids the picture live;
With the bold air, the lovely laſting die,
That fills at once and charms the wondering eye.
Hail! better Amazon, to thee belong
The critic's plaudits and the poet's ſong,
To thee may fame no barren laurels bring,
But flowery wreaths that bud each riſing ſpring.

L. A.

LORD KENYON.

NO profeſſion has afforded better opportunity for the exerciſe of great talent, and none has rewarded it with

higher honours or higher emolument than that of the law. It is a profeſſion alſo which has this peculiar advantage, that it offers encouragement to that ſort of ſkill, which is within the reach of moderate abilities, but which is only acquired by long habits of diligent reſearch and patient aſſiduity.

The ſubject of the following memoir has been gradually elevated to one of the higheſt offices of his profeſſion. No man ever ſet out with fewer advantages, derived from nature, or fortune, or connexion. He was born at Greddington, in Flintſhire, in which country his father reſided on his eſtate, and filled the office of juſtice of the peace. Mr. Kenyon was educated at Ruthin, in Denbighſhire, and at a very early age was removed by choice of his parents, in order to be placed in the office of Mr. Tomlinſon, an eminent attorney at Nantwich, in Cheſhire, as an articled clerk.

At the expiration of his articles, Mr. Tomlinſon died, and as it was intended that Mr. Kenyon ſhould have carried on the practice in conjunction with that gentleman, an important change took place in the deſtination of his life. Determined to adventure on the wider ſpace of exertion, which the profeſſion of a Counſel allotted to him, he entered at Lincoln's Inn in Trinity Term, 1754, and was called to the bar in Hilary Term, 1761.

During the firſt years of his profeſſion, Mr. Kenyon's advancement was ſlow. It was probably retarded by thoſe cauſes, which muſt always operate againſt profeſſional men, who are not puſhed into notice by the exertions and recommendations of ſtrong and powerful connexions. And it would be no derogation from the talents of Mr. Kenyon, if it were remarked, that he was not fitted by the peculiar powers of his mind, and the appropriate character of his genius, to make an impreſſion at firſt in any reſpect

ſpect adequate to the ſolidity and depth of his judgment. The department of the ſcience on which he has been moſt intenſely occupied, has been that of conveyancing; a line of the profeſſion, which peculiarly demands habits of preciſe and patient induſtry, rather than ſplendid exertions of talent.

But the merit of Mr. Kenyon, as a ſound lawyer, and an induſtrious practitioner, were by no means overlooked. He roſe into practice gradually, but his footing was ſure and ſtrong. The greater part of his buſineſs was what is called chamber buſineſs; that of giving opinions on caſes ſubmitted to his judgment, and of drawing conveyances, and bills in equity. In this branch of the profeſſion, he arrived at very conſiderable eminence, and no legal opinion carried with it more weight and authority than that of Mr. Kenyon.

About this time he contracted an intimacy with Mr. Thurlow, afterwards Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, a circumſtance to which ſome have attributed his riſe at the Chancery bar; but it is ſurely more probable, that he enſured his ſucceſs by his own talents and application. In the Court of Chancery his practice was very extenſive and lucrative; and he had already acquired a very large fortune by his buſineſs in that court, when, in the year 1782, he was appointed attorney-general, and chief juſtice of Cheſter. In his promotion to the attorney-generalſhip, Mr. Kenyon is a ſingular inſtance of the acquiſition of that honour, without ſerving the intermediate office of ſolicitor-general.

About this period, he was brought into Parliament, and in the memorable debates on Mr. Fox's coalition took a very zealous and animated part againſt that unfortunate meaſure. As a political character he was expoſed to ſatyrical merriment in the facetious criticiſms of the

the Rolliad, prefixed to which there is a very admirable likeneſs of Sir Lloyd Kenyon, as maſter of the Rolls. To this latter office he was appointed in the year 1784, a place of conſiderable rank and honour in the profeſſion, but by no means equal in emolument to the lucrative income he derived from his profeſſional exertions.

In this ſituation he remained till 1788, when the venerable Earl of Mansfield reſigned his ſeat on the bench, to the great regret of the bar and the country, after having preſided ſo many years in the Court of King's Bench, with a dignity and firmneſs ſo highly honourable to his judicial character. It is ſaid that this great man maintained a ſtruggle with his increaſing infirmities, and kept his ſituation, notwithſtanding the weakneſs of his health, for the purpoſe of procuring his vacant ſeat for a judge to whom he was perſonally attached by long habits of friendſhip. Sir Lloyd Kenyon, however, received this great diſtinction on the reſignation of Lord Mansfield, and was at the ſame time honoured with a peerage.

Since his promotion to the chief juſticeſhip of England, his lordſhip has exhibited a more conſpicuous part on the theatre of public life. A function of ſuch extenſive influence, and and occupying ſo vaſt a ſpace in the eyes of mankind, neceſſarily expoſes the character, and the conduct of thoſe who exerciſe them, to much ſcrutiny and animadverſion. He who is placed at the head of the firſt criminal and civil judicature of the country, in which the moſt momentous controverſies of law are decided, and the moſt ſolemn queſtions of property adjuſted, muſt be clothed with more than human perfection, to eſcape cenſure and imputation. But concerning the integrity of Lord Kenyon, no diſpute ever entered into the mind of any one, who has been at all converſant with the buſineſs of our courts of juſtice.

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There is however an excefs of zeal in morals as well as in religion, which may occafionally betray the beft and the wifeft men into intemperance and vehemence of expreffion. Perhaps the noble judge is too frequently carried away by this generous enthufiafm But much ought to be indulged to feeling when it is on the fide of virtue; and that is a cold auftere philofophy which would reftrain the fenfibilities of an honeft mind, when they are employed in the fervice of good morals and religion.

In exhibiting an impartial character of Lord Kenyon, it is impoffible not to advert to the quicknefs and irratability of his temper, which have been frequently objected to him. Thefe unqueftionably are not judicial qualities. Succeeding to a man fo remarkable for the mildnefs and urbanity of his manner, it is not extraordinary, that too much animadverfion fhould have been exercifed on the temper of the noble judge. The want of courteoufnefs is more peculiarly noticed in a fituation of fuch high rank and fuch honourable eftimation. Yet we believe it to be in a great meafure a habit arifing from a conftitutional irritability, which has been frequently found to baffle all the vigilance and all the efforts that have been made to fubdue it. But it cannot be diffembled, that there is nothing more directly derogatory to the dignity of the judicial character, than the exhibition of fretful and choleric difpofitions.

If the name of Lord Kenyon defcends to poftcrity, it will defcend with the praifes of all good men, for his firm and preferving exertions, to keep the channels of law clear and unpolluted by low and fordid practices. Over the attornies of his Court, he has exercifed a vigilant and falutary authority, of which the utility

utility has been already very extenſively experienced. No profeſſion contains within it more honourable and upright practiſers; none has afforded greater encouragement to low and deſperate adventurers. Theſe are evils inſeparable from the profeſſion; but it is the duty of thoſe entruſted with the adminiſtration of the laws to preſerve their purity and ſoundneſs, as far as human caution and vigilance can be extended. Thoſe low pettyfoggers in law, the profeſſors of mean quibbles and deſpicable evaſions, have contributed to bring law itſelf into diſhonourable eſtimation, among thoſe, who from theſe partial abuſes, are led into unjuſt inferences againſt the ſyſtem itſelf. But it ought to be remembered, that, by the ordinary diſpenſations of providence, great evils grow up with great benefits; and that the worſt and moſt peſtilential evils are engendered in the heat and luxuriance of the greateſt of our bleſſings.

Nor can it be forgotten, in a review of the public character of Lord Kenyon, that he has moſt effectually vindicated the cauſe of virtue and morality, in thoſe trials of adultery, which at different times, have come before him. He has expreſſed a virtuous indignation in terms at once impreſſive and appropriate. Neither rank, nor wealth, nor ſtation, are protected from the juſt animadverſion they incur in theſe loathſome and deteſtable tranſactions; and under his Lordſhip's directions, the moſt exemplary damages have been awarded to plaintiffs, in thoſe caſes which have appeared under many circumſtances of aggravation. His Lordſhip has, in this reſpect, done much towards the reſtraint of this faſhionable and prevailing profligacy. Yet much remains to be done, and the efficacy of the law concerning adultery as it now ſtands, is neceſſarily

neceſſarily very limited and imperfect. If adultery be an offence againſt good morals, if the invaſion of the marriage bed be a crime deſerving of civil denunciation, a law which merely operates as a pecuniary penalty muſt be ineffectual to its reſtraint and extirpation. Civil puniſhment ought to be adjuſted to the magnitude of the crime; and if this be an offence of high enormity, there is ſurely ſome palpable defect in our juriſprudence, which conſiders it only as a civil treſpaſs, for which a defendant is to make a pecuniary compenſation.

Another feature of Lord Kenyon's magiſterial character is be diſcerned in the ſeverity with which he has adminiſtered the juſtice of the land, on the pernicious tribe of gamblers who have for ſome years infeſted this metropolis. This has proved a difficult but not impracticable undertaking; the vice having imperceptibly tainted the morals of the people in every condition of life; a vice, however, by no means natural to Engliſhmen, but the fruit of thoſe foreign importations, which, with the manners and luxuries, have introduced the follies and profligacy of other countries.

It were impoſſible to give a minute account of Lord Kenyon's public life, which would be the hiſtory of what has been tranſacted in the Court of King's Bench for nearly theſe laſt ten years. Of his deciſions, for the moſt part, the fairneſs and ſoundneſs are undiſputed. Thoſe are his beſt judgments, in which caſes of real property are determined; and they abound with all the learning and ingenuity which are communicated by long practice, and the long exerciſe of his mind on theſe ſubjects.

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The ſtyle of Lord Kenyon is chiefly technical, conſiſting of phraſes and words derived from a long courſe of legal reading. In the uſe of language he is very unſkilful; he ſometimes clothes ſtrong ideas in energetic diction; but his ſtrength of expreſſion is never ſoftened by grace or elegance. In his ſentences, he is quaint, and affected; having acquired from intercourſes with books of legal diſquiſition, the ſtiff and unbending formality of the writers on law, none of whom, except Lord Bacon and Sir William Blackſtone had any ſkill in the art of compoſition. Nor is this apparent quaintneſs relieved by his newly acquired habit of thruſting Latin quotations into his ſpeeches, without duly conſidering how far they illuſtrate or apply to the ſubject on which he is diſcourſing, and by means of which his diction is ſometimes ludicrouſly pyeballed, and incongruous. For theſe defects, an imperfect or irregular education will account. But it is eaſy, notwithſtanding, to obſerve in the ſpeeches of Lord Kenyon, the operations of a ſtrong underſtanding, illuminated by clear and diſtinct perceptions.

Delicacy forbids us to ſay much concerning the political character of the noble Lord. It would have contributed more to the genuine and durable reputation of his Lordſhip, if he had on no occaſion exhibited, in his judicial ſtation, a mind heated and exaſperated by the politics of the day. It is a reflection, which ought to be impreſſed on the minds of all in high and elevated rank, that the fame which is acquired by a ſubſervience to the intrigue or paſſions of the times, is fugitive and precarious; that the inſtrument of a party is ſoon forgotten, and the very memorial of his name ſoon buried in oblivion. But he who, in the diſcharge of his duties to his country, holds a ſteady courſe betwixt the contending factions, neither tempted by

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the hope of profeſſional preferment, nor terrified by the menaces of miniſterial hatred, has ſecured a reputation, which is beyond the reach of political caprice, or perſonal malice.

His Lordſhip is much eſteemed in private life * He married, in 1773, his couſin Mary, daughter of George Kenyon, Eſq. of Peele, in Lancaſhire, by whom he has three ſons, Lloyd, George, and Thomas.

X.

MR. WARREN HASTINGS.

THE proſpects of Mr. Haſtings, in the early part of his life, were not very favourable. Although deſcended from an ancient family that formerly held conſiderable landed poſſeſſions, his more immediate anceſtors were not in affluent circumſtances. His father, who was a clergyman, and enjoyed a benefice at Churchill, a village near Daylesford, in Worceſterſhire, † ſeems to have left him without fortune; for the expence as well as the care of his education devolved on an uncle, Mr. Howard Haſtings, who ſent him to Weſtminſter ſchool; on whoſe death he was thrown entirely on the benevolence of ſtrangers, Doctor Nichols, the head maſter of Weſtminſter, having

* He is perhaps one of the moſt temperate and regular men of his rank of the preſent time. He riſes by ſix in the morning, and retires to reſt, except when engaged in public buſineſs, by ten in the evening. He ſeldom drinks wine or ſpirits, is always punctual in his attendance at divine ſervice, and in his family and among his relatives is greatly reſpected and beloved. His benevolent attention to the numerous diſtreſſed and injured perſons, who apply to him for legal advice, is an amiable trait of his character which cannot be too much known.

† Vide the Memoirs of Mr. Greaves in the early part of the volume.

ing generouſly offered to furniſh money to complete his education at Oxford, where he then was, and Mr. Creſwick, an India Director and executor to his uncle, propoſing to ſend him to Bengal with a writer's appointment. Whatever Mr. Haſtings' pecuniary circumſtances were at this period, the offer of Dr. Nichols is a ſtrong preſumption in behalf of his talents and character as a youth; and the philoſopher may be allowed to lament that he did not prefer a continuance at college, where there was a chance of his becoming a benefactor to human nature, through the medium of literary employments.

Mr. Haſtings accepted of the India Director's offer; and, ſailing from England in the winter of 1749, arrived at Calcutta in the enſuing ſummer. The education of Mr. Haſtings for public life may be properly dated from this period. Mr. Haſtings ſays of himſelf, in his defence during the impeachment, "With the year 1750, I entered the ſervice of the Eaſt India Company; and from that ſervice I have derived all my official habits, all the knowledge which I poſſeſs, and all the principles which were to regulate my conduct in it." This ſchool, it muſt be confeſſed, is not very fit to produce a mind of comprehenſive philanthropy. An able agent for a trading company, or a ſkillful taſk-maſter of provinces ſubjugated to a foreign yoke, it might well prepare; but it ſeems to poſſeſs no circumſtances that in their nature could go beyond thoſe objects. Whatever were its capacities, Mr. Haſtings was fairly provided to avail himſelf of them all. He was acute, obſerving, and enterpriſing; and he ſoon was placed in the midſt of affairs, with great exterior advantages. He was at firſt attached to one of the factories in Bengal; from which he was ſoon ſent on buſineſs into the interior parts of that province,

vince, where to novelty of ſcene were added opportunity for ſtudy, and various intereſting motives for enquiry. Mr. Haſtings was not accuſtomed to throw away any means of improvement. He applied himſelf aſſiduouſly to the ſtudy of the Perſian language; to the general cultivation of his talents; and to a minute obſervation of the circumſtances and nature of the Engliſh eſtabliſhments in India.

In 1756, Surajah Doulah, having made himſelf maſter of Calcutta, iſſued orders for the ſeizing of all the Engliſh in Bengal, and Mr. Haſtings was one of thoſe who were carried priſoners to Moorſhadabad, that tyrant's capital. Even at that court, Mr. Haſtings had already acquired protectors. He received many marks of favour; and was permitted to reſide at the Dutch factory of Calcapore. When Colonel Clive (afterwards Lord Clive) retook Calcutta, Mr. Haſtings ſerved as a volunteer in his army, and was preſent at the night attack of the Nabob's camp.

On the reſtoration of the company's affairs by Colonel Clive, Mr. Haſtings returned to his civil employments; and when Surajah Doulah was depoſed, Mr. Haſtings was appointed the Engliſh miniſter at the court of his ſucceſſor. In that poſt he recommended himſelf to further notice; and, in 1761, was made a member of the government of Bengal. He returned to England about four years after this laſt appointment; but having brought with him only part of his acquiſitions, and his remittances of the remainder in ſome manner failing, he endeavoured to make intereſt to return to India; and it is a curious fact, that this man who afterwards became all powerful with the company, could not at that time obtain ſuch a permiſſion.

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Mr. Haſtings now lived in England, cultivating literature, and enjoying the ſociety of men of genius; among whom were the great Lord Mansfield and Dr. Samuel Johnſon * In 1766, the year after his return, he made a propoſition to eſtabliſh a profeſſorſhip of the Perſian language at Oxford, with a view, among other motives, to his obtaining the emoluments of that ſituation, in aid of his own income, which is ſaid to have been very narrow; but a ſurpriſing revolution was preparing in his fortunes. In the winter of the ſame year, Mr. Haſtings being examined at the bar of the houſe of commons, during an enquiry into the affairs of the company, attracted general notice. And in 1767, he was appointed a member of the council of Madras: with a proviſion that he was to ſucceed to the government of that preſidency. Mr. Haſtings remained in that ſituation till 1771, when the company appointed him governor of Bengal. In 1773, he was named governor general of Bengal for five years, under the authority of an act of parliament. In 1778, he was continued for one year more; in 1779, again for one year; in 1781, for ten years; and in 1784, his appointment was confirmed by the act of parliament that formed the preſent government of India. In 1785, however, he returned to England, having been at the head of the government of Bengal more than thirteen years, and poſſeſſing, during that time,

* Three letters to him from the Doctor have been preſerved by Mr. Boſwell; who, ſpeaking of the condeſcenſion with which Mr. Haſtings communicated to him theſe letters, delineates the following ſhort ſketch of his character: "Warren Haſtings, a man whoſe regard reflects dignity even upon Johnſon; a man, the extent of whoſe abilities was equal to that of his power; and who, by thoſe who are fortunate enough to know him in private life, is admired for his literature and taſte, and beloved for the candour, moderation, and mildneſs, of his character. Were I capable of paying a ſuitable tribute of admiration to him, I ſhould certainly not withhold it at a moment when it is not poſſible that I ſhould be ſuſpected of being an intereſted flatterer. But how weak would be my voice, after that of millions whom he governed."

time, abſolute power over an extent of territory as large and as populous as all the nations of Europe united!

It is impoſſible for any man of integrity haſtily to touch the ſcenes of Mr. Haſtings' intereſting and ſplendid government in India, without apprehenſion and uneaſineſs. To ſcreen the public delinquent, is among the greateſt of public crimes; and to traduce the character of individuals is the blackeſt of private wrongs: but to ſhun both of theſe miſtakes, would demand a quantity of time, and a laborioufneſs of inveſtigation that is not to be expected in a work of this kind. It is, perhaps, the juſt mean to decline the diſcuſſion here of the moral character of Mr. Haſtings's government, and to furniſh a mere ſketch of the prominent events.

The government of Bengal, with Mr. Haſtings at its head, was veſted, in 1772, with almoſt unlimited powers. It had been the euſtom, from the time the company acquired the ſovereignty of that immenſe province, in 1765, to intruſt the departments of the revenues, and of judicial proceedings to miniſters, natives of the country. The annual revenues were a million below the ſum they were calculated to produce. Mr. Haſtings effected a great revolution. He changed the whole face of the interior adminiſtration in the departments of finance and judicature. He had ſcarcely time to breathe from theſe operations, when war broke out with France, and the Engliſh territories in India were at once preſſed by a great force from Europe, and the principal natives powers of the country. In the midſt of theſe difficulties Mr. Haſtings had to contend a long time with a powerful oppoſition in his own council. In defiance of ſo many untoward circumſtances, the company's affairs wore a better aſpect. Their annual revenue was increaſed from three to five millions. Their enemies among the native Princes were deſtroyed or won to their alli-

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ance—and India had even ſomething to offer to France towards the adjuſtment of peace for England. Nothing of all this can be denied. Perhaps under the mixed ſyſtem of trade and conqueſt that belongs to the Engliſh poſſeſſions in India, no man could have done more than Mr. Haſtings did for his employers. But then, it is ſtill to be aſked—what was the price ſuffering humanity gave for a trading company's increaſe of revenue, and acquiſitions of territory?

During Mr. Haſtings' adminiſtration, the affairs of the company and the conduct of their ſervants in India were the ſubjects of various diſcuſſions and proceedings in the houſe of commons. Twice a vote paſſed for the recall of Mr. Haſtings. On one of theſe occaſions, the houſe came to that reſolution on the following motion of Mr. Dundas, at preſent one of his Majeſty's principal ſecretaries of ſtate.

"That Warren Haſtings, Eſq. governor-general of Bengal, and William Hornby, Eſq. preſident of the council at Bombay, having, in ſundry inſtances, acted in a manner repugnant ro the honor and policy of this nation, and thereby brought great calamities on India, and enormous expences on the Eaſt India Company, it is the duty of the directors of the ſaid company to purſue all legal and effectual means for the removal of the ſaid governor-general and preſident from their reſpective offices, and to recall them to Great Britain."

In conſequence of theſe votes, the directors came to correſpondent reſolutions; but their meaſures were defeated by ſubſequent reſolutions of the proprietors, the majority of whom were bent on continuing Mr. Haſtings in his employment.

On the 20th of June, 1785, the day of Mr. Haſtings' arrival in England, Mr. Burke gave notice of his intention to move an impeachment of him

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in the enſuing ſeſſion. On the 4th of April, 1786, Mr. Burke exhibited twenty articles of impeachment againſt Mr. Haſtings, to which he afterwards added two more:* but it was not till April 10th, 1787, that the impeachment was voted; it was then carried without a diviſion. The follow-

* The twenty-two articles, occupy an octavo volume of 460 cloſely printed pages; the following are their ſubſtance:

I. With groſs injuſtice, cruelty, and treachery againſt the faith of nations, in hiring Britiſh ſoldiers for the purpoſe of extirpating the innocent and helpleſs people who inhabited the Rohillas.

II. With uſing the authority delegated to him through the Eaſt India Company, for treating the King Shaw Allum, Emperor of Indoſtan, or otherwiſe the Great Mogul, with the greateſt cruelty, in bereaving him of conſiderable territory, and withholding forcibly that tribute of 26 lacks of rupees, which the company engaged to pay as an annual tribute or compenſation for their holding in his name the Duannee of the rich and valuable provinces of Bengal, and Bahar, and Oriſſa.

III. With various inſtances of extortion, and other deeds of mal-adminiſtration againſt the Rajah of Benares. This article conſiſted of three different parts, in each of which Mr. Haſtings was charged with the moſt wanton oppreſſion and cruelties.—He gave in papers concerning the rights of the Rajah, his expulſion, and the ſundry revolutions which have been effected by the Britiſh influence under the controul of the late governor-general in that zemindary.

IV. The numerous and inſupportable hardſhips to which the royal family of Oude had been reduced, in conſequence of their connection with the ſupreme council.

V. With having, by no leſs than ſix revolutions, brought the fertile and beautiful provinces of Farruckabad to a ſtate of the moſt deplorable ruin.

VI. With impoveriſhing and depopulating the whole country of Oude and rendering that country, which was once a garden, an uninhabited deſart.

VII. With a wanton, an unjuſt, and pernicious exerciſe of his powers, and the great ſituation of truſt which he occupied in India, in overturning the ancient eſtabliſhments of the country, and extending an undue influence by conniving at extravagant contracts, and appointing inordinate ſalaries.

VIII. With receiving money againſt the orders of the company, the act of parliament, and his own ſacred engagements; and applying that money to purpoſes totally improper and unauthoriſed.

IX. With having reſigned by proxy for the obvious purpoſe of retaining his ſituation, and denying the deed in perſon, in direct oppoſition to all thoſe powers under which he acted.

X. Accuſes him of treachery to Muzuffer Jung, who had been placed under his guardianſhip.

XI. Charges him with enormous extravagance and bribery in various contracts, with a view to enrich his dependants and favorites.

Theſe are the principal; the other eleven are chiefly connected with, and dependant upon the foregoing.

ing was the committee appointed to manage the profecution, in the name of the commons:

Right Hon. Edmund Burke; Right Hon. C. J. Fox; R. B. Sheridan, Eſq; Right Hon. T. Pelham; Right Hon. W. Wyndham; Sir Gilbert Elliott, Bt.; Charles Grey, Eſq.; William Adam, Eſq.; Sir John Anſtruther; M. A. Taylor, Eſq.; Lord Viſcount Maitland; Dudley Long, Eſq.; General J. Burgoyne; Hon. George A. North; Hon. Andrew St. John; Hon. A. Fitzherbert; Colonel Fitzpatrick; John Courtenay, Eſq; A. Rogers; Sir James Erſkine.

On the 13th February, 1788, the trial commenced in Weſtminſter-hall; and SEVEN YEARS afterwards, on the 23d of April, 1795, judgment was pronounced by the Lords on the charges, moſt of them ſeverally, and Mr. Haſtings was acquitted of them all.*

The unprecedented duration of the trial, was an evil, wherever the fault lay, of an enormous extent, both as it bore upon the public and Mr. Haſtings, but it was more eſpecially grievous to the latter. The expences to the public of this trial amounted to more than 100,000l.; and Mr. Haſtings' law expences to more than 60,000l. In conſideration of the latter, and of his ſervices, the Eaſt India Company voted him an annual penſion of 400l. for twenty-eight years and a half, amounting to 114,000l. of which the company gave him 42,000l. in advance, and lent him beſide 50,000l. And it is juſt to obſerve, that the company took other meaſures to declare their belief of his innocence.

Mr.

* Twenty-nine were the greateſt number of peers who voted on this occaſion. On the firſt article of the impeachment twenty-three voted *not guilty*, and ſix *guilty*. On two of the articles the vote of *not guilty* was unanimous. The Lord Chancellor pronounced the judgment in the following words, "Warren Haſtings, Eſq. I am to acquaint you that you are "ACQUITTED of the ARTICLES of IMPEACHMENT, &c. exhibited "againſt you by the Houſe of Commons, for High Crimes and Miſdemea-"nors, and all things contained therein, and you are diſcharged, paying "your fees."

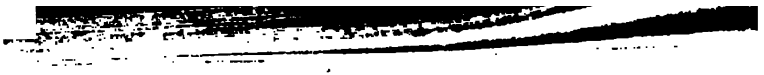
Mr. Haſtings is ſaid to be a good architect and engineer. His literary attainments are certainly very extraordinary for a man who paſſed more than thirty-three years of his life in active ſcenes of buſineſs in ſuch a ſervice as that of the Eaſt India Company, and who entered their ſervice before he was ſeventeen. Mr. Haſtings is now in the 66th year of his age.

We ſhall conclude this memoir with the following elegant ſpecimen of Mr. Haſtings' poetical powers. It is a rare inſtance that a man unites in his own perſon, various talents, in ſo great a degree of excellence. This beautiful imitation of the OTIUM DIVOS of Horace, is ſaid to have been written while on his paſſage to England, in 1785.

For eaſe the harraſſed ſeaman prays,
When equinoctial tempeſts raiſe
  The Cape's ſurrounding wave;
When hanging o'er the reef he hears
The cracking maſt, and ſees or fears,
  Beneath, his wat'ry grave.
For eaſe the ſlow Mahratta ſpoils,
And hardier Seik erratic toils,
  While both their eaſe forego;
For eaſe, which neither gold can buy,
Nor robes, nor gems, which oft bely
  The cover'd heart, beſtow.
For neither gold nor gems combin'd
Can heal the ſoul or ſuffering mind.
  Lo! where their owner lies:
Perch'd on his couch Diſtemper breathes,
And Care, like ſmoke, in turbid wreaths,
  Round the gay ceiling flies.
He who enjoys, nor covets more,
The lands his father held before,
  Is of true bliſs poſſeſſ'd;
Let but his mind unfetter'd tread,
Far as the paths of knowledge lead,
  And wiſe, as well as bleſt.
Nor fears his peace of mind annoy,
Leſt printed lines his fame deſtroy,
  Which labor'd years have won;
Nor pack'd Committees break his reſt,
Nor avarice ſends him forth in queſt
  Of climes beneath the Sun.

Short

Short is our ſpan; then why engage
In ſchemes for which man's tranſient age
  Was ne'er by fate deſign'd?
Why ſlight the gifts of Nature's hand?
What wanderer from his native land
  E'er left himſelf behind?
The reſtleſs thought and wayward will,
And diſcontent, attend him ſtill,
  Nor quit him while he lives;
At ſea, Care follows in the wind;
At land, it mounts the pad behind,
  Or with the poſt-boy drives.
He who would happy live to-day,
Muſt laugh the preſent ills away,
  Nor think of woes to come;
For come they will, or ſoon or late,
Since mix'd at beſt is man's eſtate,
  By Heav'n's eternal doom.
To ripen'd age CLIVE liv'd renown'd,
With lacks enrich'd, with honours crown'd,
  His valour's well-earn'd meed.
Too long, alas! he liv'd to hate
His envied lot, and died too late,
  From life's oppreſſion freed.
An early death was ELLIOTT's doom;
I ſaw his opening virtues bloom,
  And manly ſenſe unfold,
Too ſoon to fade. I bade the ſtone
Record his name, 'midſt hordes unknown,
  Unknowing what it told,
To thee, perhaps, the Fates may give,
I wiſh they may, in health to live,
  Herds, flocks, and fruitful fields;
Thy vacant hours in mirth to ſhine;
With theſe the Muſe, already thine,
  Her preſent bounty yields.
For me, O SHORE, I only claim,
To merit, not to ſeek for, fame,
  The good and juſt to pleaſe;
A ſtate above the fear of want,
Domeſtic love, Heaven's choiceſt grant,
  Health, leiſure, peace, and eaſe.



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